# PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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(71)Applicant: MINOLTA CAMERA CO LTD

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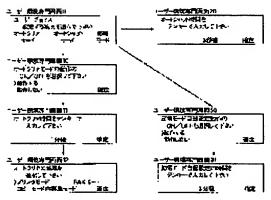
(72)Inventor: MORIKAWA TAKESHI

## (54) IMAGE FORMING DEVICE

### (57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To improve the convenience of use by setting an automatic shut time and an automatic clear time or the like freely depending on a copy function, a printer function and a facsimile function so as to attain the adjustment of the equipment depending on the need of the user.

CONSTITUTION: The image forming device having at least two functions among a copy function, a printer function and a facsimile function and operated individually by each function is provided with an automatic shutter device stopping the operation of a drive means after elapse of a prescribed time after the image forming operation is finished or an automatic clear device or the like restoring the mechanical condition of



the function to the standard state after elapse of a prescribed time after the function operation is finished. Each device sets the standard prescribed time for each selected function mode or decided properly depending on the need of the user. Thus, an automatic shutter time and an automatic clear time or the like in response to the selected function mode are obtained and the convenience of use as the image forming device is improved.

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#### CLAIMS

### [Claim(s)]

[Claim 1]It has at least two functions among duplication functions, printer functions, and facsimile functions characterized by comprising the following, and is an image forming device which can operate by each function.

A function selection means to choose either of said each function.

A driving means which drives various elements of said device.

An auto shut mechanism in which operation of said driving means is stopped after specified time elapse after image formation operation is completed.

A means said function means was selected to set up said predetermined time for every function, and a means to control operation of said auto shut mechanism based on predetermined time set up by said setting-out means.

[Claim 2]It has at least two functions among duplication functions, printer functions, and facsimile functions characterized by comprising the following, and is an image forming device which can operate by each function.

A function selection means to choose either of said each function.

a device when specified time elapse is carried out after an end of functional operation -predetermined time -- an auto clear mechanism in which machinery conditions of a function
chosen by said function selection means when any operation was not performed are returned
to a normal condition.

A means selected by said function selection means to set up said predetermined time for every function.

A means to control operation of said auto clear mechanism based on predetermined time set up by said setting-out means.

[Claim 3] The image forming device according to claim 2 which has a means to set up an operation / un-operating of said auto clear mechanism.

[Claim 4]It has at least two functions among duplication functions, printer functions, and facsimile functions characterized by comprising the following, and is an image forming device which can operate by each function.

A function selection means to choose either of said each function.

A means to set up power saving mode which prevents unnecessary power consumption of a device after an end of machine operation when specified time elapse is carried out.

A means to perform power saving mode based on predetermined time set up by said function selection means.

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#### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Industrial Application] This invention has at least two functions among a duplication function, a printer function, and a facsimile function, and relates to the image forming device which can operate individually by each function.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art]Conventionally, the thing provided with an auto shut mechanism, an auto clear mechanism, or power saving mode is known as image forming devices, such as a copying machine. Said auto shut mechanism says the function which suspends the drive of main motor capacity after predetermined auto shut time progress from the end of discharge of the last copy (or print) paper, and is returned to an initial state. That is, it is made to stand by in the state where copy operation can be resumed at any time, between said auto shut times, and if there is a demand of a copy, it will enable it to shift from it to copy operation immediately. Said autoclear function says the function to which a specific normal condition is returned after predetermined auto clear time progress from the end of discharge of the last copy (or print) paper, data transmission, etc. Said power saving mode says the function changed from the end of discharge of the last copy (or print) paper, data transmission, etc. to a power saving state after predetermined power-saving start time progress.

[0003]By the way, the image forming device of the compound die provided with two or more functions among the copying machine, the printer, and the facsimile is provided, and said auto shut time, the auto clear time, and the power-saving start time should be suitably determined with this kind of image forming device in recent years according to each function. For example, as for said auto shut time, even if it is [ a copying machine ] at the time of an intermittent copy, in order to secure the time of manuscript exchange, or to shorten the copy time required per sheet, it is preferred to consider it as comparatively long time (for example, around 15

seconds). On the other hand, it is necessary to take manuscript swap time into consideration like a copying machine in neither a printer nor a facsimile, and satisfactory also as a short time as much as possible. As for said power-saving mode time, it is preferred to lengthen comparatively and to change into the state which can start operation of a copy etc. at any time so that a following copy or print may be obtained in a copying machine or a printer as soon as possible. As for an auto clear time, it is convenient to enable it to determine suitably according to a user's needs.

[0004]

[Means for Solving the Problem] This invention is characterized by comprising:

A function selection means for it to have been made in order to solve said problem, for the 1st invention to have at least two functions among a duplication function, a printer function, and a facsimile function, and to be an image forming device which can operate by each function, and to choose either of said each function.

A driving means which drives various elements of said device.

An auto shutter mechanism in which operation of said driving means is stopped after specified time elapse after image formation operation is completed.

A means said function means was selected to set up said predetermined time for every function, and a means to control operation of said auto shutter mechanism based on predetermined time set up by said setting-out means.

[0005]Next, a function selection means for the 2nd invention to have at least two functions among a duplication function, a printer function, and a facsimile function, and to be an image forming device which can operate by each function, and to choose either of said each function, a device when specified time elapse is carried out after an end of functional operation -- predetermined time -- machinery conditions of a function selected by said function selection means with an auto clear mechanism returned to a normal condition, when any operation is not performed. It has a means selected by said function selection means to set up said predetermined time for every function, and a means to control operation of said auto clear mechanism based on predetermined time set up by said setting-out means. A means to set up an operation / un-operating of said auto clear mechanism may be formed in said 1st or 2nd image forming device.

[0006]Then, a function selection means for the 3rd invention to have at least two functions among a duplication function, a printer function, and a facsimile function, and to be an image forming device which can operate by each function, and to choose either of said each function, It has a means to set up power saving mode which prevents unnecessary power consumption of a device after an end of machine operation when specified time elapse is carried out, and a means to perform power saving mode based on predetermined time set up by said function

selection means.

[0007]

[Effect of the Invention]According to the described image forming device, according to a duplication function, a printer function, and a facsimile function, freely An auto shut time (time after image formation operation is completed until it stops operation of a driving means), An auto clear time (time after functional operation is completed until it returns machinery conditions to a normal condition), Or a power-saving start time (time after machine operation is completed until it performs power saving mode) can be set up, adjustment of the machinery according to the user's needs is attained, and the use kitchen of an image forming device improves.

[8000]

[Example]Hereafter, the example of this invention is described with reference to an accompanying drawing. Drawing 1 shows the outline composition of the digital composite machine which is one example of this invention, and drawing 2 shows the outline composition of a navigational panel. This composite machine comprises the scanning system 10, the image signal processing part 20, the printing processing part 30, the optical system 40, the imaging system 50, the printer controller part 90, the fax (it expresses the following "FAX".) controller part 91, and the navigational panel 100.

[0009]The exposure lamp 11 with which the scanning system 10 irradiates with a manuscript, and the mirrors 12 and 13 into which the optical path of the catoptric light from a manuscript is changed, The lens 14 which condenses catoptric light, and the half mirror 15 which leads light to two optoelectric transducers for color discrimination, It has the optoelectric transducers 16 and 17 which generate an electrical signal according to the light which received light, and the scanner 19 moves in parallel with the manuscript stand glass 18, and carries out the exposure scanning of the manuscript at the time of movement to the arrow direction of a figure. The light reflected from the manuscript enters into the half mirror 15 via the mirrors 12 and 13 and the lens 14, the transmitted light is illuminated by the optoelectric transducer 16, and catoptric light is illuminated by another optoelectric transducer 17.

[0010]The image signal processing part 20 processes the picture signal outputted from the two optoelectric transducers 16 and 17, identifies it in a specific color and the other color, and is outputted to the printing processing part 30 as image data with sexual desire news. [0011]The printing processing part 30 has the function only for the part of a gap of the exposure position of two laser generators to delay image data to the 2nd laser generator, and to send it into it while distributing image data to two semiconductor laser generators later mentioned according to the sent image data with sexual desire news.

[0012] The optical system 40 is provided with the two laser generators 41 and 42, the lens 43, the mirror 45 that separates the laser beam of 44 or 2 mirrors, and the mirrors 46 and 47 which

lead each separated laser beam to a photo conductor. In said optical system 40, the laser beam by which the laser generators 41 and 42 were modulated according to the image data outputted from the printing processing part 30 is discharged independently, respectively. After said laser beam passes the lens 43, it is reflected by the mirror 44, and it is separated into two laser beams by the mirror 45, it reflects in the mirrors 46 and 47, and it is exposed by the photo conductor 62, respectively.

[0013] The imaging system 50 comprises development and the transfer system 60, the conveyance system 70, and the fixing system 80. Development and the transfer system 60, With the main motor capacity 61. The surface of the photo conductor 62 which rotates to an arrow direction. The 1st electrifying charger 63 and red toner which are charged uniformly. In preparation for the development counter 64 and the 2nd exposure to store, again the photo conductor 62. It has the cleaning part 68 which removes the toner which remains on the transfer charger 67 for transferring the 2nd electrifying charger 65 to electrify, the development counter 66 which stores black toner, and the developed toner image on a paper, and the surface of the photo conductor 62. The fixing system 80 is provided with the fixing roller 81, the discharge roller 82, and the discharge sensor 83 that detects a paper, and the paper to which the toner was fixed is discharged from machinery by the discharge roller 82, and it can detect discharge of a paper with the discharge sensor 83. The conveyance system 70 is provided with the sheet guide 73 to which the paper picked out from the cassettes 71 and 72 which store a paper, and the cassettes 71 and 72 is led, the timing roller 74 which adjusts the timing which conveys a paper to a transfer section, and the belt 75 which conveys a paper to the fixing system 80.

[0014]In said imaging system 50, the peripheral face of the photo conductor 62 which rotates to an arrow direction with the main motor capacity 61, After being uniformly charged in the 1st electrifying charger 63, the laser beam reflected in the mirror 46 is exposed, the 1st electrostatic latent image is formed, and this 1st electrostatic latent image is visible-image-ized as a red toner image with the development counter 64. Next, after the photo conductor 62 is again charged in the 2nd electrifying charger 65, the laser beam reflected in the mirror 47 is exposed, the 2nd electrostatic latent image is formed, and this 2nd electrostatic latent image is visible-image-ized as a black toner image with the development counter 66. A paper is selectively supplied from the cassette 71 or 72, is led to the sheet guide 73, takes said toner image and timing with the timing roller 74, and is conveyed by the transfer section. In a transfer section, after said toner image is transferred by the paper with the transfer charger 67, it is conveyed by the fixing roller 81 with the transportation belt 75, and after heat fixing of the toner image is carried out to a paper here, it is discharged outside the plane with the discharge roller 82. The paper discharged is detected with the discharge sensor 83.

[0015] The printer controller part 90 develops to a bit map, this image data is synchronized with

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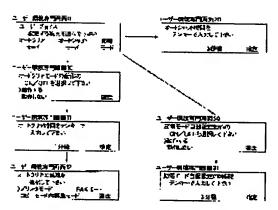
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the function to the standard state after elapse of a prescribed time after the function operation is finished. Each device sets the standard prescribed time for each selected function mode or decided properly depending on the need of the user. Thus, an automatic shutter time and an automatic clear time or the like in response to the selected function mode are obtained and the convenience of use as the image forming device is improved.

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An auto shut mechanism in which operation of said driving means is stopped after specified time elapse after image formation operation is completed.

A means said function means was selected to set up said predetermined time for every function, and a means to control operation of said auto shut mechanism based on predetermined time set up by said setting-out means.

[Claim 2]It has at least two functions among duplication functions, printer functions, and facsimile functions characterized by comprising the following, and is an image forming device which can operate by each function.

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to a normal condition.

A means selected by said function selection means to set up said predetermined time for every function.

A means to control operation of said auto clear mechanism based on predetermined time set up by said setting-out means.

[Claim 3]The image forming device according to claim 2 which has a means to set up an operation / un-operating of said auto clear mechanism.

[Claim 4]It has at least two functions among duplication functions, printer functions, and facsimile functions characterized by comprising the following, and is an image forming device which can operate by each function.

A function selection means to choose either of said each function.

A means to set up power saving mode which prevents unnecessary power consumption of a device after an end of machine operation when specified time elapse is carried out.

A means to perform power saving mode based on predetermined time set up by said function selection means.

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[0003]By the way, the image forming device of the compound die provided with two or more functions among the copying machine, the printer, and the facsimile is provided, and said auto shut time, the auto clear time, and the power-saving start time should be suitably determined with this kind of image forming device in recent years according to each function. For example, as for said auto shut time, even if it is [ a copying machine ] at the time of an intermittent copy, in order to secure the time of manuscript exchange, or to shorten the copy time required per sheet, it is preferred to consider it as comparatively long time (for example, around 15

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A means said function means was selected to set up said predetermined time for every function, and a means to control operation of said auto shutter mechanism based on predetermined time set up by said setting-out means.

[0005]Next, a function selection means for the 2nd invention to have at least two functions among a duplication function, a printer function, and a facsimile function, and to be an image forming device which can operate by each function, and to choose either of said each function, a device when specified time elapse is carried out after an end of functional operation -- predetermined time -- machinery conditions of a function selected by said function selection means with an auto clear mechanism returned to a normal condition, when any operation is not performed. It has a means selected by said function selection means to set up said predetermined time for every function, and a means to control operation of said auto clear mechanism based on predetermined time set up by said setting-out means. A means to set up an operation / un-operating of said auto clear mechanism may be formed in said 1st or 2nd image forming device.

[0006]Then, a function selection means for the 3rd invention to have at least two functions among a duplication function, a printer function, and a facsimile function, and to be an image forming device which can operate by each function, and to choose either of said each function, It has a means to set up power saving mode which prevents unnecessary power consumption of a device after an end of machine operation when specified time elapse is carried out, and a means to perform power saving mode based on predetermined time set up by said function

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[0007]

[Effect of the Invention]According to the described image forming device, according to a duplication function, a printer function, and a facsimile function, freely An auto shut time (time after image formation operation is completed until it stops operation of a driving means), An auto clear time (time after functional operation is completed until it returns machinery conditions to a normal condition), Or a power-saving start time (time after machine operation is completed until it performs power saving mode) can be set up, adjustment of the machinery according to the user's needs is attained, and the use kitchen of an image forming device improves.

[8000]

[Example]Hereafter, the example of this invention is described with reference to an accompanying drawing. Drawing 1 shows the outline composition of the digital composite machine which is one example of this invention, and drawing 2 shows the outline composition of a navigational panel. This composite machine comprises the scanning system 10, the image signal processing part 20, the printing processing part 30, the optical system 40, the imaging system 50, the printer controller part 90, the fax (it expresses the following "FAX".) controller part 91, and the navigational panel 100.

[0009]The exposure lamp 11 with which the scanning system 10 irradiates with a manuscript, and the mirrors 12 and 13 into which the optical path of the catoptric light from a manuscript is changed, The lens 14 which condenses catoptric light, and the half mirror 15 which leads light to two optoelectric transducers for color discrimination, It has the optoelectric transducers 16 and 17 which generate an electrical signal according to the light which received light, and the scanner 19 moves in parallel with the manuscript stand glass 18, and carries out the exposure scanning of the manuscript at the time of movement to the arrow direction of a figure. The light reflected from the manuscript enters into the half mirror 15 via the mirrors 12 and 13 and the lens 14, the transmitted light is illuminated by the optoelectric transducer 16, and catoptric light is illuminated by another optoelectric transducer 17.

[0010]The image signal processing part 20 processes the picture signal outputted from the two optoelectric transducers 16 and 17, identifies it in a specific color and the other color, and is outputted to the printing processing part 30 as image data with sexual desire news.

[0011]The printing processing part 30 has the function only for the part of a gap of the exposure position of two laser generators to delay image data to the 2nd laser generator, and to send it into it while distributing image data to two semiconductor laser generators later mentioned according to the sent image data with sexual desire news.

[0012] The optical system 40 is provided with the two laser generators 41 and 42, the lens 43, the mirror 45 that separates the laser beam of 44 or 2 mirrors, and the mirrors 46 and 47 which

lead each separated laser beam to a photo conductor. In said optical system 40, the laser beam by which the laser generators 41 and 42 were modulated according to the image data outputted from the printing processing part 30 is discharged independently, respectively. After said laser beam passes the lens 43, it is reflected by the mirror 44, and it is separated into two laser beams by the mirror 45, it reflects in the mirrors 46 and 47, and it is exposed by the photo conductor 62, respectively.

[0013] The imaging system 50 comprises development and the transfer system 60, the conveyance system 70, and the fixing system 80. Development and the transfer system 60, With the main motor capacity 61. The surface of the photo conductor 62 which rotates to an arrow direction. The 1st electrifying charger 63 and red toner which are charged uniformly. In preparation for the development counter 64 and the 2nd exposure to store, again the photo conductor 62. It has the cleaning part 68 which removes the toner which remains on the transfer charger 67 for transferring the 2nd electrifying charger 65 to electrify, the development counter 66 which stores black toner, and the developed toner image on a paper, and the surface of the photo conductor 62. The fixing system 80 is provided with the fixing roller 81, the discharge roller 82, and the discharge sensor 83 that detects a paper, and the paper to which the toner was fixed is discharged from machinery by the discharge roller 82, and it can detect discharge of a paper with the discharge sensor 83. The conveyance system 70 is provided with the sheet guide 73 to which the paper picked out from the cassettes 71 and 72 which store a paper, and the cassettes 71 and 72 is led, the timing roller 74 which adjusts the timing which conveys a paper to a transfer section, and the belt 75 which conveys a paper to the fixing system 80.

[0014]In said imaging system 50, the peripheral face of the photo conductor 62 which rotates to an arrow direction with the main motor capacity 61, After being uniformly charged in the 1st electrifying charger 63, the laser beam reflected in the mirror 46 is exposed, the 1st electrostatic latent image is formed, and this 1st electrostatic latent image is visible-image-ized as a red toner image with the development counter 64. Next, after the photo conductor 62 is again charged in the 2nd electrifying charger 65, the laser beam reflected in the mirror 47 is exposed, the 2nd electrostatic latent image is formed, and this 2nd electrostatic latent image is visible-image-ized as a black toner image with the development counter 66. A paper is selectively supplied from the cassette 71 or 72, is led to the sheet guide 73, takes said toner image and timing with the timing roller 74, and is conveyed by the transfer section. In a transfer section, after said toner image is transferred by the paper with the transfer charger 67, it is conveyed by the fixing roller 81 with the transportation belt 75, and after heat fixing of the toner image is carried out to a paper here, it is discharged outside the plane with the discharge roller 82. The paper discharged is detected with the discharge sensor 83.

[0015] The printer controller part 90 develops to a bit map, this image data is synchronized with

a motion of a paper, and it transmits [image data is received from a host computer (not shown), ] it to the printing processing part 30, and performs print operation by processing of the above-mentioned optical system 40 and the imaging system 50.

[0016]The FAX controller part 91 has two processings, reception and transmission, when it is transmission, it writes the image data with sexual desire news sent from the image signal processing part 20 in an image memory, and it performs a send action with a predetermined protocol. In reception, received data are once written in an image memory, this image data is transmitted to the printing processing part 30, and processing of the above-mentioned optical system 40 and the imaging system 50 performs print operation.

[0017]Two or more keys 101-117, the LCD display 120, and two or more LED 121-130 are formed in the navigational panel 100. Here the user environmental selection key 101, the DAIAGU environmental selection key 102, the special screen selection key 103, the application screen selection key 104, and the basic screen selection key 105, The display screen of the LCD display 120 is chosen, respectively, user environment includes magnification selection, paper selection, etc. in which a user does normal use, and this user environment changes further the item which can be chosen in an LCD display screen in order of a basic screen -> application screen -> special screen according to frequency in use. DAIAGU environment is required for adjustment maintenance diagnosis of machinery, there are function mode, a counter display mode, etc., and a basic -> application -> speciality and an LCD display screen change according to frequency in use also within this DAIAGU environment. User environmental display LED121, DAIAGU environmental display LED122, special screen-display LED123, application screen-display LED124, and basic screen display LED125 express the kind of the above-mentioned LCD display screen chosen. The copy mode selection key 106, the printer mode selection key 107, and the FAX mode selection key 108 are what chooses the application mode in a composite machine, respectively, Copy mode display LED126, printer mode display LED127, and FAX mode display LED128 are the displays to application mode selection. The panel reset key 109 performs the same processing as the auto clearance mentioned later, and returns the state of a navigational panel to a normal condition. The interruption key 110 is for interrupting copy operation etc. temporarily, and interrupting and copying in another mode.

Interruption display LED129 shows an interruption mode state.

The printing key 114 directs Koppies Tart in copy mode, and displays the display 130 which can be printed in the state which can be printed. The stop key 115 is a key for making copy operation suspend.

Clear key 116 is a key for clearing a number of copied sheets etc. to "1."

The function selection key 111,112,113 chooses the operational mode in each application mode in an LCD display screen, respectively. The ten key 117 is for performing number-of-

sheets setting out and various setting out in an LCD display screen.
[0018]Drawing 3 is a block diagram of the control circuit in a composite machine. It is constituted focusing on seven CPUs.

CPU1 analyzes the data sent by the keystroke and communication on the navigational panel 100, and it performs control which displays or transmits the inputted data. CPU2 generalizes the whole composite machine system and it performs setting out of the default application mode of a power up, application mode change, control of a sequence, mediation of the royalty of a resource, and communications control of the network data transmitted serial. In the following explanation, CPU2 is called USC (User System Controller). CPU3 controls the navigational panel 100 in picture input-and-output sequence control and copy mode in case the composite machine operates as a copying machine. In the following explanation, CPU3 is called MSCC (Macro System Controller for Copy). CPU4 controls the navigational panel in control and the printer mode of sequence control host I/F of an engine imaging system in case the composite machine operates as a printer. In the following explanation, CPU4 is called MSCP (Macro System Controller for Printer). CPU5 controls the navigational panel in management of a picture input-and-output sequence control communication line in case the composite machine operates as a facsimile, and a facsimile mode. In the following explanation, CPU5 is called MSCF (Macro System Controller for FAX). CPU6 is CPU which controls an imaging system and it is popularly called an engine by CPU which performs control of print related operation, such as the 1st of the photo conductor drum 62, the 2nd electrification control, writing of the image data generated in cooperation with the printing processing part 30, phenomenon operation of the toner of a color (red) and two black colors, and paper feeding control. CPU7 controls operation of a scanning system and it inputs the image data from the photoelectrical exchange elements 16 and 17 further, It is CPU which carries out 2 color discrimination in addition to the usual image processing, such as a shading compensation, variable power, and dithering, changes into a color (red) and the write signal corresponding to black toner development, and outputs data to the printing processing part 30.

[0019]Drawing 4 shows the gestalt of transition of the LCD display screen in the auto clearance according to the application mode used as the gist of this invention, auto shut, and the navigational panel 100 that chooses the function of the power-saving mode. Although this figure expresses the display screen in copy mode, other application modes (a printer mode, a FAX mode) take the same gestalt except the display of the user environmental special screen 12.

[0020]In the state of the standard display screen of the copy mode shown in drawing 2, if the special screen selection key 103 is pressed, special screen-display LED123 will light up and an LCD display screen will change to the display of the user environmental special screen 0 of

# drawing 4.

[0021]When the function selection key 111 (not shown to referring to <u>drawing 2</u> and <u>drawing 4</u>) is pressed by this picture state, change to the user environmental special screen 10, and selection of ON/OFF of auto clear operation, Whenever it presses the function selection key 111, the position of ">>" changes, and if the function selection key 113 of the bottom currently further displayed as "decision" is pressed, when "it operates" is chosen, it moves to the user environmental special screen 11, and when "it does not operate" is chosen, it will return to the user environmental special screen 0 again.

[0022]In the user environmental special screen 11, the time of an auto clearance is inputted with the ten key 117, the time range which can be set up beforehand here is decided, for example like after 1 minute - 10 minutes, and the ten key input besides the range is forbidden. If the function selection key 113 is pressed after inputting time with the ten key 117, it moves to the user environmental screen 12, and processing of an auto clearance can be chosen. Processing is as what kind of state to set it here, when an auto clearance is performed. Since this example shows the display screen of copy mode, that it can choose changes an application mode into a printer mode or a FAX mode, or an application mode is whether to return to a standards setting value within copy mode, without changing. When there is no keystroke on this auto after [ operation finish, such as a print in a certain application mode, ] and predetermined time navigational panel 100, perform clear processing automatically, but. When processing when the panel set key on the navigational panel 100 was pressed in this processing may also be tackled and the panel set key is pressed, it is not based on an application mode but may always be made to perform fixed processing.

[0023]In the display screen state of the user environmental special screen 0, if the function selection key 112 is pressed, it changes to the user environmental special screen 20, and auto shut time can be set up. The processing in this case is equivalent to the user environmental special screen 11, and returns to the user environmental basic screen 0 again by pressing the function selection key 113.

[0024]display screen state \*\*\*\* of the user environmental special screen 0 -- it changing to the user environmental special screen 30, and, if the function selection key 113 is pressed, It returns to the user environmental basic screen 0 again by being able to perform selection of whether to perform power-saving mode automatic setting operation, moving to the user environmental special screen 31, performing the same processing as the user environmental special screen 11, when operating, and pressing the function selection key 113. [0025]Based on the system action of a composite machine next drawing 5, and drawing 6, setting out of the application mode in a composite machine and operation of a change are explained using the data flow of each CPU-to-CPU. Drawing 5 shows the case where copying machine mode is chosen as a power up as a default.

- \*\* USC first transmits APID (application and ID) which shows the application mode in copying machine mode to the navigational panel 100, MSCC, MSCP, MSCF and an engine, and a scanner. Thereby, a navigational panel, an engine, and a scanner receive this APID, and initialize information required in order to operate as a copying machine managed inside to the default value 0.
- \*\* Next, MSCC transmits information other than a default value required in order to operate as a copy according to the preset value of the normal condition in copy mode to a navigational panel, an engine, and a scanner.

Through the above processing, the navigational panel 100, an engine, and a scanner start the support as copy mode, and MSCC performs control of these resources henceforth. [0026]Drawing 6 shows the case where it changes from copy mode to a FAX mode.

- \*\* When the timing of an auto clearance of the navigational panel 100 and panel reset are pushed first, transmit an application change request to MSCC.
- \*\* MSCC receives this change request and transmits the application change request which added concrete APID to USC according to processing of the above-mentioned auto clearance. This example shows the case where it is set up so that processing of the auto clearance in copy mode may change to a FAX mode.
- \*\* Next, USC receives the application mode change request to this FAX mode, and it transmits to MSCC so that release of a resource required for a FAX mode may be directed.
- \*\* Since an engine and a scanner are needed in a FAX mode, MSCC advances a resource release request by this example to an engine and a scanner.
- A \*\*\*\* engine and a scanner receive this release request, if they are not during copy operation, they will transmit a release response to MSCC, and if they are during copy operation, they will transmit a release response to MSCC after the end of a copy.
- \*\* MSCC receives the release response from the above-mentioned resource, and transmits the resource release response which shows that the change of an application mode is possible to USC.
- \*\* USC transmits APID which, in response, shows the application mode of a FAX mode to a navigational panel, MSCC, MSCP, MSCF and an engine, and a scanner.

Subsequent processings are the same as that of the power up in <u>drawing 5</u>, and since it is a FAX mode in this case, MSCF transmits information other than a default value required in order to operate as FAX to a navigational panel, an engine, and a scanner, and ends (\*\*) and the change procedure of an application mode.

[0027]The details of processing of each CPU in drawing 3 are explained below.

(1) CPU1 (navigational panel)

As shown in <u>drawing 7</u>, the program of a navigational panel, The OPI library (navigational panel interface library) which controls an interface with a display / input device, and a controller

(MSCC, MSCP, MSCF, USC), OPDD (navigational panel description data) which described the operation specification of each application mode, It comprises three blocks of OP interpreter (navigational panel interpreter) \*\* which analyzes OPDD according to the input from an OPI library, and is outputted to an OPI library.

[0028]A mimetic diagram in case OP interpreter analyzes OPDD is shown in drawing 8. There is a peculiar part which is different by all the application modes in OPDD. As OPDD retrieved data respectively, required for the inside of OPDD in order that OP interpreter may take out required data, OP input (information transmitted to a controller from a navigational panel), OP display information (display information transmitted to a navigational panel from a controller) and an OPI library code this in response to the keystroke from an input device, and there are a keystroke code delivered to OP interpreter, APID which shows an application mode, etc. Furthermore there are data for OP input as an analysis result and a actual display change, etc. in the inside of OPDD, and OP interpreter takes these out and it delivers to an OPI library. [0029]Drawing 9 shows the flow chart of the main routine of CPU1. At a main routine, if RESET starts CPU and a program starts, by S101, initial setting of RAM and the I/O Port which are used inside will be performed first. Next, in S102, the time of a main routine is managed and the internal timer for starting an OPI library and OP interpreter periodically is started. The subroutine of a library is called in S103 and the subroutine of OP interpreter is called in S104. In S105, if it judges whether the internal timer started by S102 carried out the counting end and ends, it will return to S102, and the above-mentioned processing is repeated and is performed.

[0030]Drawing 10 shows the flow chart of the OPI library. In an OPI library, the keystroke first inputted from an input device by S110 is changed into a key code, this key code is set to predetermined RAM, and OP interpreter uses this as OPDD retrieved data. In S111, if there is display change data from OP interpreter, control for a actual display change will be performed. In S112, the data sent from a controller is set to predetermined RAM, and OP interpreter uses this as OPDD retrieved data. In S113, if there is OP input which should be transmitted to the controller from OP interpreter, this will be changed into the format of a actual interface and it will transmit.

[0031]Drawing 11 shows the flow chart of OP interpreter. By analyzing the above-mentioned OPDD, respectively, each processing shown below is performed, although not described on a flow chart. First, it judges whether the input from an OPI library is a keystroke, and if it is not a keystroke here (S120;NO), processings other than a keystroke will be performed by S125 S120. The processing to OP display information from MSC, etc. are one of processings other than a keystroke. When there is a keystroke by S120, an auto clear timer is reset by S121, and the present display screen is judged by S122. And in the case of the special screen shown in drawing 4 (S122;YES), it judges whether the key pressed by S123 is a function selection key,

and, in in other than a special screen (S122;NO), keystroke processing of those other than a special screen is performed by S124. When the function selection key is pressed (S123;YES), the present application mode is judged by S130. Here, according to the pressed function selection keys 111-113, it processes as it progressed to S140 and was shown in drawing 4, when an application mode was copy mode. Namely, input of power-saving mode \*\* and processing of a display change are performed, respectively at the time of auto shut and the function selection key 113 at the time of an auto clearance and the function selection key 112 at the time of the function selection key 111. Next, in S141, in order to transmit settled data to MSCC, send data is set. Here, processing which transmits to actual MSCC is performed in an OPI library. When an application mode is a printer mode, the same processing as the abovementioned is performed by S150 and S151, and data is transmitted to MSCP. Also when an application mode is a FAX mode, it processes by S160 and S161 similarly, and data is transmitted to MSCF. Processing of those other than the function selection key in a special screen is performed by S170. It returns to the main routine of OP interpreter after the abovementioned various processings.

[0032]It judges as any of ON/OFF of the auto clear mode drawing 12 was set on the user environmental screen 10 by S1251 by showing contents of processing other than the keystroke of S125, and at the time of ON, in order to measure auto clear time by S1352, a timer is counted up. Next, if it judged whether the auto clear time set up on the user environmental screen 11 was completed and has ended by S1253, after processing the auto clearance set up on the user environmental special screen 12 by S1254, other processings are performed by S1255. In said S1254, it specifically distinguishes any of a copy, a printer, and FAX the present mode is, and a clear demand (when also performing a mode change at the time of an auto clearance, it is an application change request) is outputted to applicable MSC. [0033](2)CPU3(MSCC),CPU4(MSCP),CPU5(MSCF)

The flow chart of the main routine of CPU3, CPU4, and CPU5 is shown in <u>drawing 13</u> - <u>drawing 15</u>.

(2-1)CPU3(MSC)

By S301, initial setting of RAM and the I/O pot which are used inside is performed first. Next, in S302, the internal timer which manages the time of a main routine is started. In S303, command processings from USC which manages the whole system, such as a change of application and a release request of a resource, and release response of a resource, and processing that transmits processing of the auto clearance in copy mode to USC are performed, and APID is set up here. In S304, APID set up by S303 is judged, and if it is not copy mode, processing of S305-S308 will be skipped, and it will move to S309. If it is copy mode, processing not more than S305 will be performed continuously. In S305, communications processing with the above-mentioned navigational panel (it is displayed as an

"operation panel" on a figure.) is performed. By reception of OP information which specifically shows a setting detail from a navigational panel, the movement directive information for operating as copy mode is set up. It transmits to a navigational panel by making into OP display information the information about which a user should be told if needed. At the time of an application mode change, information other than a default required in order to operate as copy mode is transmitted to a navigational panel. Communications processing with an engine is performed in S306. The data which specifically performs setting out of a paper feed port, selection of a development counter, etc., and the data of the print command in connection with a copy sequence, etc. are transmitted to an engine, and the report to the command in connection with the data and the copy sequence which show an engine state, etc. are received from an engine. At the time of an application mode change, information other than a default required in order to operate as copy mode is transmitted to an engine. The setting detail of the auto shut time used as the point of this invention and the power-saving mode is also transmitted to an engine by these S306. Communications processing with a scanner is performed in S307 continuing. The data of the scanning start command concerning the information and copy sequence about the information about the magnification and color specification which are specifically inputted from a navigational panel, and edit, etc. is transmitted to a scanner, From a scanner, the data in which the state of a scanner is shown, the scanning termination report in connection with a copy sequence, etc. are received. At the time of an application mode change, information other than a default required in order to operate as copy mode is transmitted to a scanner. In S308, required processing in copy modes other than the above is performed. In S309, it judges whether the internal timer considered as the start by S302 carried out the counting end, and if it is a counting end, it will return to S302 and the above-mentioned processing will be continued.

[0034](2-2)CPU4(MSCP)

S401-S406 are equivalent to processing of MSCC, and perform this to a printer mode. In S407, processing which synchronizes with a motion of a paper the image data developed on the bit map, and transmits to the printing processing part 30 is performed. In S408, processing which receives the image data sent from host I/F, and is developed on a bit map is performed. In S409, required processing in printer modes other than the above is performed. In S410, required processing in printer modes other than the above is performed. In S410, the same processing as S309 is performed.

[0035](2-3)CPU5(MSCF)

S501-S507 are equivalent to processing of the above-mentioned MSCC, and perform this to a FAX mode. In S508, processing which transmits the received data currently written in the image memory to the printing processing part 30 is performed. In S509, while processing the communications protocol about transmission/reception, in the processing and communication

which are directly written in a memory in reception, the processing which writes the image data sent from an image processing portion in an image memory also carries out. In S510, required processing in FAX modes other than the above is performed. In S511, the same processing as S309 is performed.

[0036](3) CPU6 (engine)

The flow chart of the main routine of CPU6 (engine) is shown in <u>drawing 16</u>. Initial setting of RAM and the I/O Port which are first used inside by S601 is performed. Next, in S602, the internal timer which manages the time of a main routine is started. In S603, reception to the directions from USC(s), such as a change of application, is performed. The resource release request from MSC [ as opposed to / corresponding to setting out at S604 / each application mode at S603 ], Movement directive information, the command in connection with a print sequence, etc. are received, and the report in connection with the release response of a resource, status information, and a print sequence, etc. are transmitted according to an engine state. S605 performs the rotating process of the photo conductor (P/C) 62, and controls an auto shut timer here. (It mentions later for details.) S606 is a portion which processes the development transfer system for forming a latent image on a photo conductor and transferring this on a paper.

[0037]Processing of S606 is explained based on  $\underline{\text{drawing 1}}$ , while the photo conductor drum 62 makes one revolution in an arrow direction -- electrification -> -- 1st exposure -> -- 2nd electrification [ of the 1st development ] -> -- 2nd exposure -> -- the 2 -- each process of development -> transfer is performed and the print operation of two colors is controlled. The surface of the photo conductor drum 62 is uniformly charged in potential  $V_{01}$  in the electrifying charger 63. Next, a laser beam is exposed, the 1st latent image is formed, and reversal development of this is carried out to a color toner image, impressing bias voltage with the 1st development counter 64. Then, the surface voltage of the photo conductor drum 62 is charged in  $V_{02}$  in the 2nd electrifying charger 65, a laser beam is exposed, the 2nd latent image is

formed, and reversal development is carried out to a black toner image, impressing bias voltage with the 2nd development counter 66. Finally, the toner image of said two colors is transferred on a paper with the transfer charger 67. The on-timing of the developing bias at the time of the printing start in S606, transfer, and electrification is determined by the development transfer system permit flag set by the processing in S606 mentioned later.

[0038]A feed system is processed in S607. Here, if it is in the state which can receive and feed paper to the print command (feed demand) from MSC received by S604, feeding will be started and a feed report will be transmitted to MSC. The timing roller 74 with which the tip of a toner image is doubled starts, and the paper after the end of transfer is conveyed to a fixing part. If the discharge sensor 83 detects discharge of a paper, the discharge report in which the end of a print of the paper of one sheet is shown to MSC will be transmitted. Said feed report

and a discharge report are used for processing of auto shut in S605. S608 is later mentioned for details in the portion which performs temperature control of the fixing roller 81 for fixing the image transferred on the paper by thermo compression bonding, and automatic-switching processing to the power-saving mode. In S609, if it is a counting end which judges whether the internal timer started by S602 carried out the counting end, it will return to S602, and the above-mentioned processing is performed continuously. "MSC" expressed in S604 changes with application modes, and it is MSCF at the time of MSCP and a FAX mode at the time of MSCC and a printing mode at the time of copy mode.

[0039]The details of the photo conductor (P/C) rotating process (S605) in <u>drawing 16</u> are shown in <u>drawing 17</u> and 18. This photo conductor rotating process has the State composition, judges the photo conductor State counter in which the State number is first shown by S602P, and performs the following processings according to that value.

[0040]Photo conductor State counter = in the case of zero, it confirms whether the print command from MSC which supports the present application mode by S621P was received, and if it is YES, a photo conductor State counter will be set as "1" by S622P. It returns to a main routine by S623P, without changing a photo conductor State counter, if it is NO. [0041]Photo conductor State counter = in the case of one, a main-motor-capacity ON signal is outputted by S631P, the main motor capacity 61 is started, and rotation of the photo conductor 62 is started. Next, a timer until rotation of the main motor capacity 61 is stabilized in a stationary state in consideration of the rise time of the main motor capacity 61 in S632P is set. This is in the state which the main motor capacity 61 is not rotating normally, and is because it will become an overcharge and will have an adverse effect on the photo conductor 62, if transfer charger 67 grade is turned on. Finally, a photo conductor State counter is set as "2" by S633P.

[0042]Photo conductor State counter = in the case of two, by S641P, the main-motor-capacity rise time timer set by S632P is counted, if it is a counting end, it will move to S642P, and the flag which permits development and processing of a transfer system is set. With reference to this flag, pretreatment of the photo conductor 62 with which exposure of the photo conductor drum was equipped by S606 (development, transfer system processing) will start. Finally a photo conductor State counter is set as "3" by S643P. In the count continuation by S641P, it returns to a main routine as it is, without changing a photo conductor State counter. [0043]Photo conductor State counter = in order to judge whether paper feeding of one sheet was performed by S651P in the case of three, it is confirmed whether there is any feed report which is set by S607 and transmits to MSC. And if it is YES, a photo conductor State counter will be changed into "4" by S652P, and if it is NO, it will return to a main routine as it is. [0044]Photo conductor State counter = since the feed report is received by S651P S661P in the case of four, the paper counter showing one paper having gone into the inside of a plane

inside the plane is \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*ed, and a photo conductor State counter is changed into "5" by S662P continuing.

[0046]Photo conductor State counter = it will judge whether in the case of six, by S681P, the print command was inputted again, and paper was fed, and if it is YES, a photo conductor State counter is changed into "4" by S686P, and the above-mentioned processing will be repeated and will be performed. In YES, an auto shut timer is counted by S681P S682P, If it ends, it will be considered as the main motor capacity OFF by S683P, and rotation of a photo conductor is stopped, a development transfer permit flag is reset by S684P continuing, a photo conductor State counter is changed into "0" by S685P, and processing of the deactivation of a series of photo conductor drums is ended. In continuation of a count by S682P, it returns to a main routine as it is, and it continues processing.

[0047]The details of <u>drawing 19</u> and the fixing system processing in 20S608 are shown. This fixing system processing has the State composition, and divides a processing system with the fixing State counter in which the State number of this fixing system processing is first shown by S620H.

[0048]Fixing State counter = in the case of zero, warming UP processing is started by S621H, and a fixing State counter is changed into "1" by S622H.

[0049]Fixing State counter = in the case of one, by S631H, if it judges whether the thermo sensitive register etc. detected the temperature of the fixing roller, and a predetermined temperature was reached, and it has reached, in order to keep temperature constant by S632H, temperature control control is usually started, and a fixing State counter is changed into "2" S633H. In NO, warming UP control is continued by S631H.

[0050]Fixing State counter = in the case of two, carrying out operation of a power-saving mode automatic setup by S641H judges whether lends and there is. An engine receives the information set up with MSC in which the timer value of a power-saving mode automatic setup

set up and mentioned later supports each application mode to that navigational panel which does not carry out whether this operation is carried out, and sets it up based on this information. When operating by S641H, if it confirmed whether have started whether it moves to S642H and main motor capacity turns on, and print operation and has started, a fixing State counter will be changed into "3" by S643H. If it is NO in S641H and S642H, it will return to a main routine as it is.

[0051]Fixing State counter = in the case of three. [ whether main motor capacity turns off by S651H, and ] That is, it confirms whether have ended print operation, and if it is the end of print operation, a power-saving mode automatic setting timer will be set by S652H, and a fixing State counter will be changed into "4" by S653H. If it is ON in S651H, it will return to a main routine as it is.

[0052]Fixing State counter = in the case of four. [ whether main motor capacity turns off by S661H, and ] That is, it judges whether print operation has started again, and if main motor capacity turns on and print operation is carrying out the new start, a fixing State counter will be changed into "3" by S665H. In the case of the main motor capacity OFF, a power-saving mode automatic setting timer is counted by S661 S662H, if it is a counting end, control of the power-saving mode temperature control in a temperature level usually lower than temperature control will be started by S663H, and a fixing State counter will be changed into "5" by S664H. When it is not a counting end in S662H, it returns to a main routine as it is, and a count is continued. [0053]Fixing State counter = In the case of five, it is judged whether instructions of power-saving mode release were received from MSC by S671H, If it is YES, it will move to S672H and a fixing State counter will be changed into "0", again, warming UP control is started, if it is NO, it will return to a main routine as it is, and temperature control control of the power-saving mode will be continued.

[0054] Drawing 21 shows the flow chart of CPU2 (USC). Here, the default application mode of a power up is set to initial setting of RAM and the I/O Port which are first used inside by \$201. Next, in \$203, the internal timer which manages the time of a main routine is started. In \$205, the data transmitted from each MSC (MSCC, MSCP, MSCF) and each resource (an engine, a scanner, a navigational panel) is inputted. \$207 judges whether the data inputted by \$205 is data (an application change request, a resource release response) about the whole system. Here, in YES, it moves to \$209 and setting out etc. of APID which generalizes the whole system are processed. The route of the network which is transmitted serial by \$207 in NO is distinguished, and the data to a corresponding transmission destination is set. The data processed by \$209 and \$211 performs processing which transmits to predetermined MSC or resource as network data again by \$213. In \$215, it judges whether the internal timer started by \$203 carried out the counting end, and if it is a counting end, it will return to \$203 and the above-mentioned processing will be continued.

[Translation done.]

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- 2.\*\*\*\* shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

# DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1]It is a sectional view showing the outline composition of a digital composite machine.

[Drawing 2]It is a top view of a navigational panel.

[Drawing 3]It is a block diagram of a control circuit.

[Drawing 4] It is a figure showing an example of the LCD display in a display panel.

[Drawing 5]It is a figure showing the data flow of CPU-to-CPU.

[Drawing 6]It is a figure showing the data flow of CPU-to-CPU.

[Drawing 7]It is a figure showing the program configuration of a navigational panel.

[Drawing 8]It is an OPDD analysis mimetic diagram of OP interpreter.

[Drawing 9]It is a flow chart of the main routine of CPU1.

[Drawing 10]It is a flow chart of an OPI library.

[Drawing 11] It is a flow chart of OP interpreter.

[Drawing 12] It is a flow chart of processings other than a keystroke.

[Drawing 13]It is a flow chart of the main routine of CPU3.

[Drawing 14]It is a flow chart of the main routine of CPU4.

[Drawing 15]It is a flow chart of the main routine of CPU5.

[Drawing 16] It is a flow chart of the main routine of CPU6.

[Drawing 17] It is a flow chart of a photo conductor rotating process.

[Drawing 18] It is a flow chart of a photo conductor rotating process.

[Drawing 19] It is a flow chart of processing of a fixing system.

[Drawing 20] It is a flow chart of processing of a fixing system.

[Drawing 21]It is a flow chart of the main routine of CPU2.

[Description of Notations]

10 [ -- Optical system, ] -- A scanning system, 20 -- An image signal processing part, 30 -- A

printing processing part, 40 50 [ -- Fixing system, ] -- An imaging system, 60 -- Development and a transfer system, 70 -- A conveyance system, 80 90 -- A printer controller part, 91 -- A FAX controller part, 100 -- Navigational panel, 101 -- A user environmental selection key, 102 -- A DAIAGU environmental selection key, 103 -- Special screen selection key, 104 -- An application screen selection key, 105 -- A basic screen selection key, 106 -- Copy mode selection key, 107 -- A printer mode selection key, 108 -- FAX mode selection key, 109 [ -- The function-lines \*\*\*\* key C 120 / -- A LCD display, 126 / -- Copy mode display LED, 127 / -- Printer mode display LED, 128 / -- FAX mode display LED. ] -- A panel reset key, 111 -- The function selection key A, 112 -- The function selection key B, 113

[Translation done.]

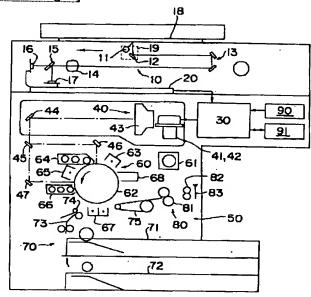
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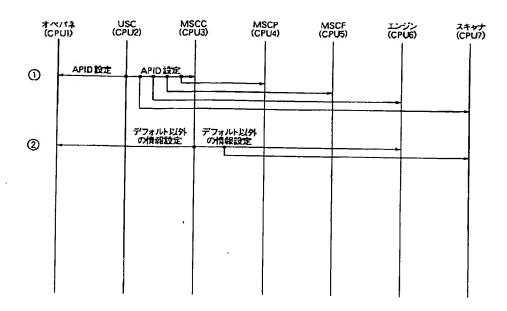
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- 2.\*\*\*\* shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

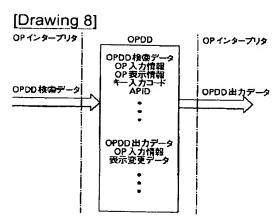
#### **DRAWINGS**

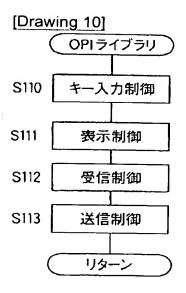
[Drawing 1]



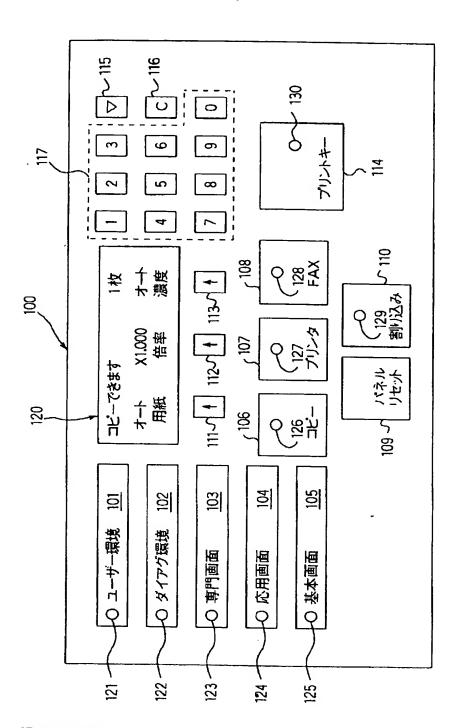
[Drawing 5]



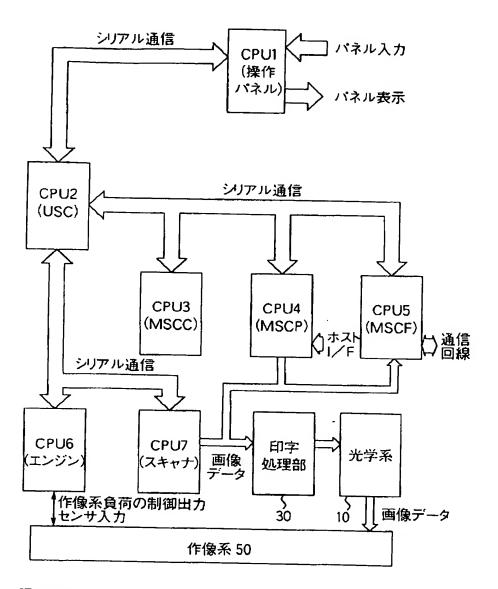




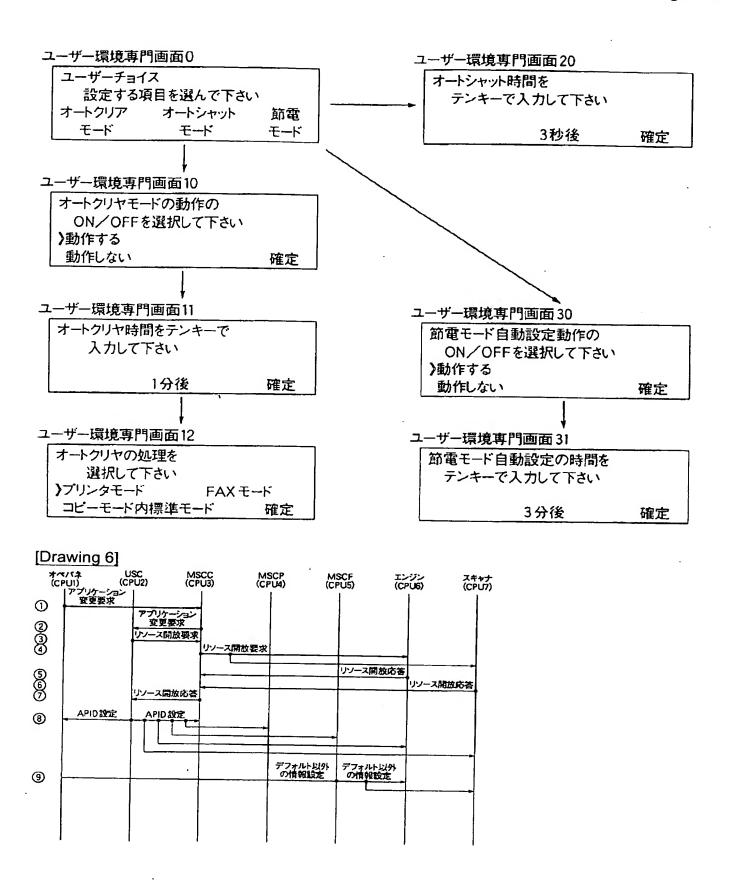
# [Drawing 2]



[Drawing 3]

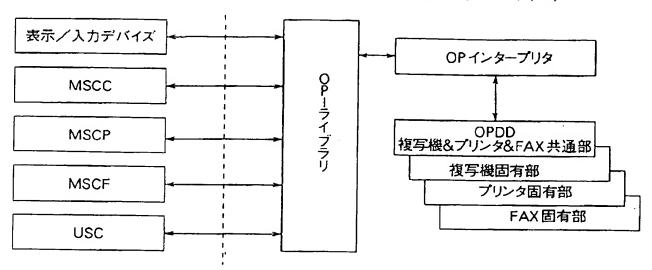


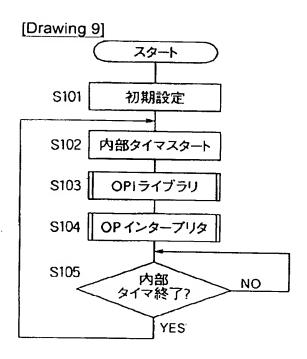
[Drawing 4]



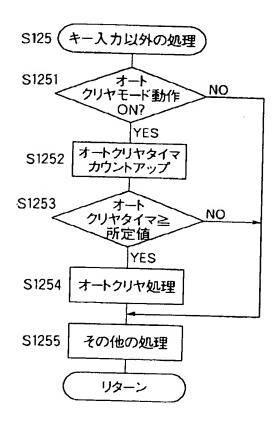
# [Drawing 7]

# CPU1(操作パネルプログラム)

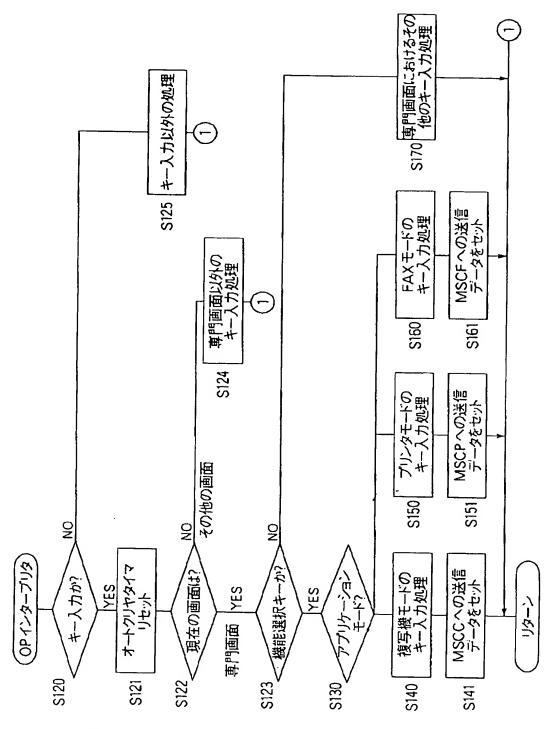




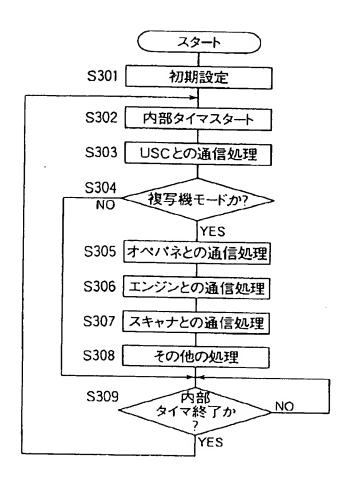
[Drawing 12]



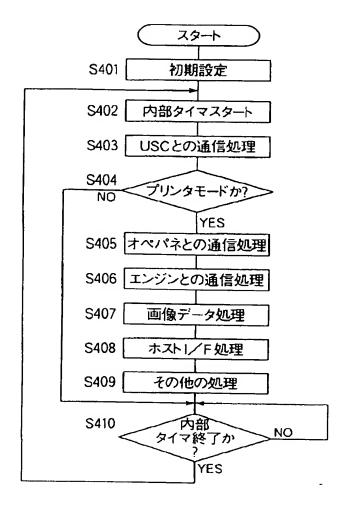
[Drawing 11]



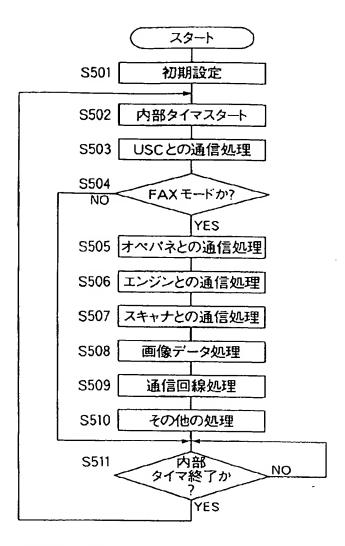
[Drawing 13]



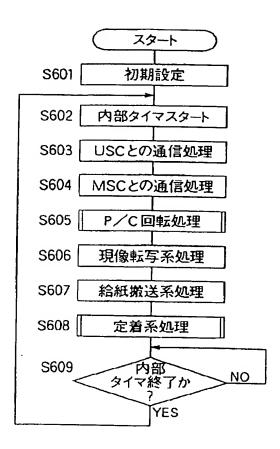
[Drawing 14]



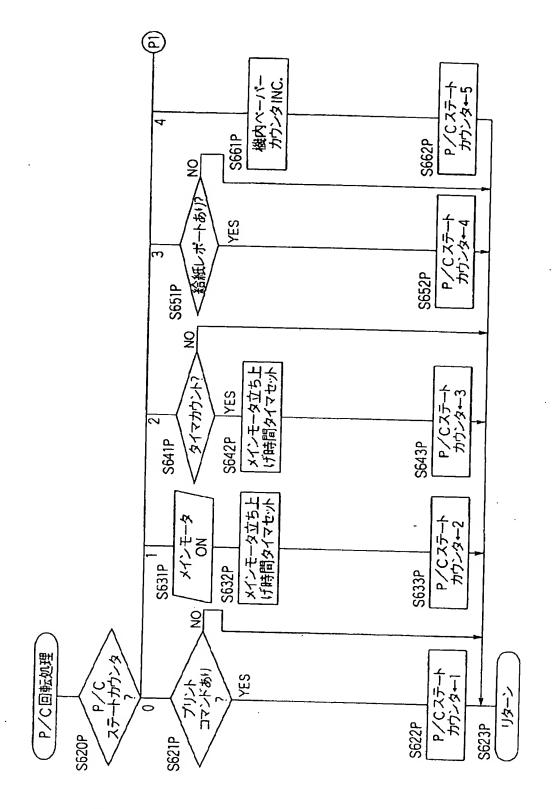
[Drawing 15]



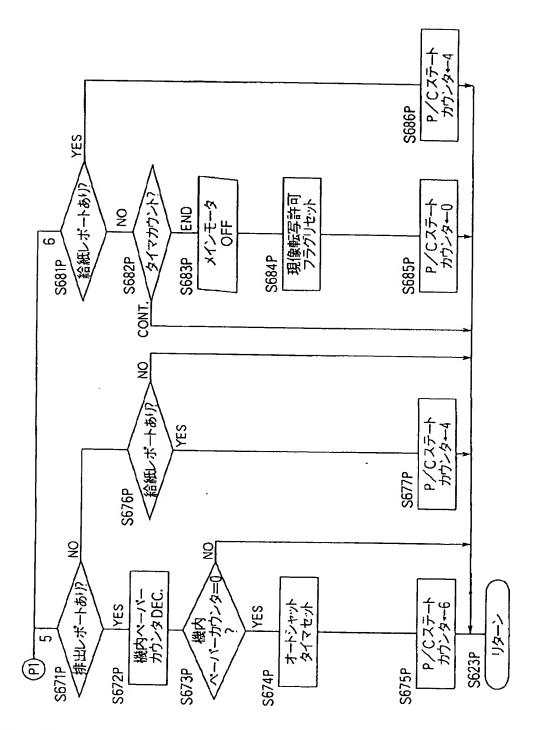
[Drawing 16]



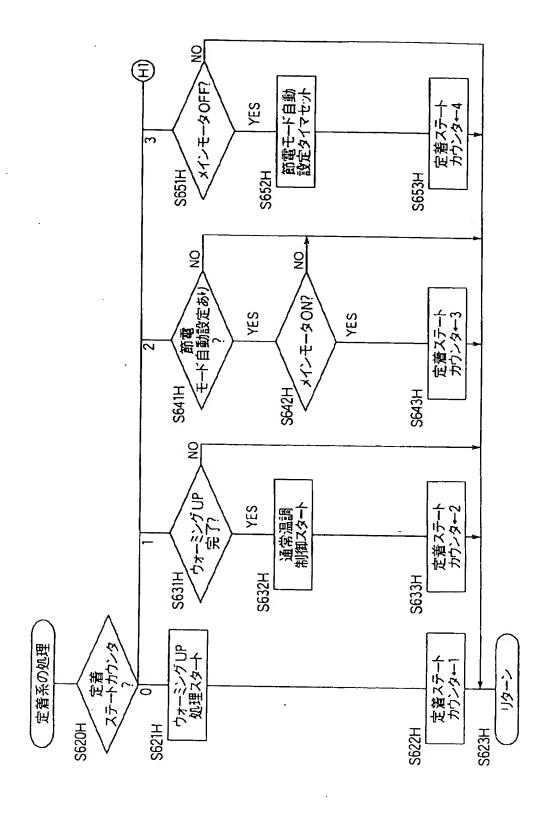
[Drawing 17]



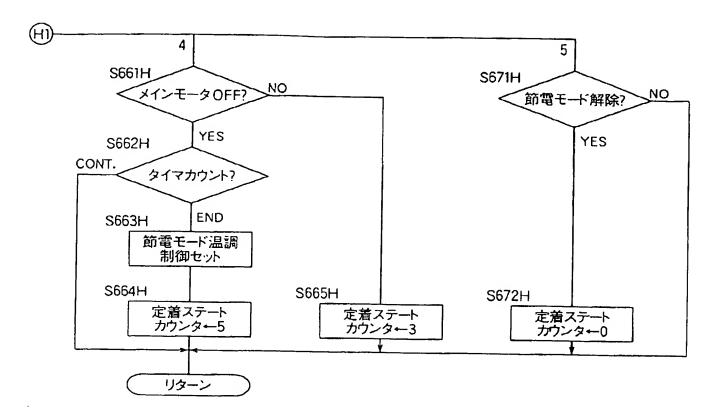
[Drawing 18]



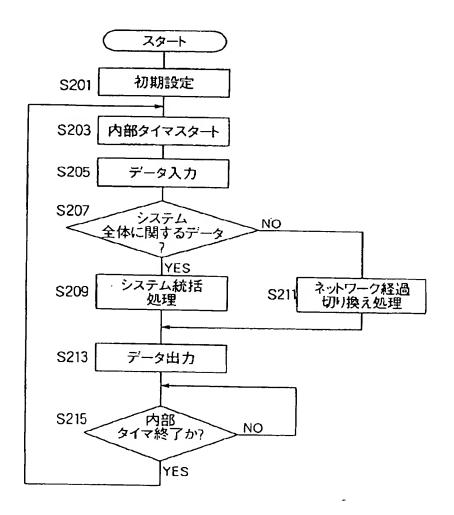
[Drawing 19]



[Drawing 20]



[Drawing 21]



[Translation done.]

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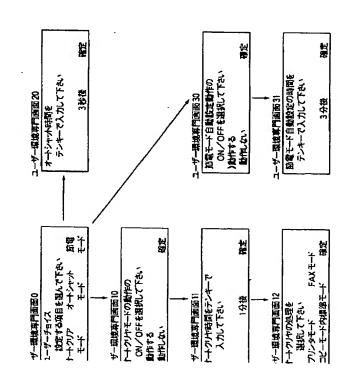
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						ミノルタ	タカメラホ	朱式会社
(22)出願日		平成4年(1992)6月17日				大阪府大阪市中央区安土町二丁目3番13号 大阪国際ピル		
					(72)発明者			
					(12)光穷有			
								央区安土町 2丁目 3番13号 ミノルタカメラ株式会社内
					(74)代理人			ミノルテカメフ休式芸在内 東 (外 2 名)
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# (54)【発明の名称】 画像形成装置

#### (57)【要約】

【構成】 複写機能、プリンタ機能およびファクシミリ機能のうち少なくとも2つの機能を有し、各々の機能で動作可能な画像形成装置に、機能選択手段と、各種エレメントを駆動する駆動手段と、オートシャットタイム、オートクリアタイム、または節電スタートタイムを設定する手段と、設定された時間に基づいてオートシャット機構、オートクリア機構、または省電力モードを実行すう手段を設けた。

【効果】 ユーザのニーズに応じて自由にオートクリアタイム、オートクリアタイム、節電スタートタイムを調整でき、画像形成装置の使用勝手が良くなる。



# 【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 複写機能、プリンタ機能及びファクシミリ機能のうち少なくとも2つの機能を有し、各々の機能で動作可能な画像形成装置であって、前記各機能のいずれかを選択する機能選択手段と、前記装置の各種エレメントを駆動する駆動手段と、画像形成動作が終了してから所定時間経過後に前記駆動手段の動作を停止させるオートシャット機構と、前記機能手段によって選択された機能毎に前記所定時間を設定する手段と、前記設定手段によって設定された所定時間に基づいて前記オートシャット機構の動作を制御する手段とを備えたことを特徴とする画像形成装置。

【請求項2】 複写機能、プリンタ機能及びファクシミリ機能のうち少なくとも2つの機能を有し、各々の機能で動作可能な画像形成装置であって、前記各機能のいずれかを選択する機能選択手段と、機能動作の終了後に所定時間経過したときあるいは装置に所定時間何らの操作が行われなかったとき前記機能選択手段で選択された機能の機械条件を標準状態に復帰させるオートクリア機構と、前記機能選択手段によって選択された機能毎に前記で時間を設定する手段と、前記設定手段によって設定された所定時間に基づいて前記オートクリア機構の動作を制御する手段とを備えたことを特徴とする画像形成装置。

【請求項3】 前記オートクリア機構の作動/不作動を 設定する手段を有する請求項2に記載の画像形成装置。

【請求項4】 複写機能、プリンタ機能及びファクシミリ機能のうち少なくとも2つの機能を有し、各々の機能で動作可能な画像形成装置であって、前記各機能のいずれかを選択する機能選択手段と、機械動作の終了後、所定時間経過したときに装置の不要な電力消費を防止する省電力モードを設定する手段と、前記機能選択手段によって設定された所定時間に基づいて省電力モードを実行する手段とを備えたことを特徴とする画像形成装置。

# 【発明の詳細な説明】

#### [0001]

【産業上の利用分野】本発明は、複写機能、プリンタ機能及びファクシミリ機能のうち少なくとも2つの機能を有し、各々の機能で個別に動作可能な画像形成装置に関する。

### [0002]

【従来の技術及び発明が解決しようとする課題】従来、 複写機等の画像形成装置として、オートシャット機構、 オートクリア機構、又は省電力モードを備えたものが知 られている。前記オートシャット機構は、最終コピー (又はプリント) 用紙の排出終了から所定のオートシャットタイム経過後にメインモータの駆動を停止して初期 状態に復帰させる機能をいう。つまり、前記オートシャットタイノの門はコピー動作をいってまる思想できる。 動作に移ることができるようにしたものである。また、前記オートクリア機能は、最終コピー(又はプリント)用紙の排出、データ送信等の終了から所定のオートクリアタイム経過後に特定の標準状態に復帰させる機能をいう。さらに、前記省電力モードは、最終コピー(又はプリント)用紙の排出、データ送信等の終了から所定の節電スタートタイム経過後に節電状態に切り替える機能をいう。

【0003】ところで、近年、複写機、プリンタ、ファ クシミリのうち複数の機能を備えた複合型の画像形成装 置が提供されており、この種の画像形成装置では、前記 オートシャットタイム、オートクリアタイム、及び節電 スタートタイムは、各機能に応じて適宜決定されるべき である。例えば、複写機では、原稿交換の時間を確保し たり、間欠コピー時にあっても1枚当たりのコピー所要 時間を短縮したりするために、前記オートシャットタイ ムは、比較的長い時間(例えば15秒前後)とするのが 好ましい。これに対して、プリンタやファクシミリで は、複写機のように原稿交換時間を考慮する必要がな く、できるだけ短時間としても問題はない。また、複写 機やプリンタでは、出来るだけ早く次のコピーまたはプ リントが得られるように、前記節電モードタイムは比較 的長くしていつでもコピー等の動作をスタート可能な状 態にしておくのが好ましい。さらに、オートクリアタイ ムは、使用者のニーズに応じて適宜決定できるようにし ておくことが便利である。

### [0004]

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明は前記問題点を解決するためになされたもので、第1の発明は複写機能、プリンタ機能及びファクシミリ機能のうち少なくとも2つの機能を有し、各々の機能で動作可能な画像形成装置であって、前記各機能のいずれかを選択する機能選択きる機能のいずれかを選択する機能選択手段と、前記装置の各種エレメントを駆動する駆動手段と、画像形成動作が終了してから所定時間経過後に前記駆動手段の動作を停止させるオートシャッタ機構と、前記機能手段によって選択された機能毎に前記所定時間を設定する手段と、前記設定手段によって設定された所定時間に基づいて前記オートシャッタ機構の動作を制御する手段とを備えたものである。

【0005】次に、第2の発明は、複写機能、プリンタ機能及びファクシミリ機能のうち少なくとも2つの機能を有し、各々の機能で動作可能な画像形成装置であって、前記各機能のいずれかを選択する機能選択手段と、機能動作の終了後に所定時間経過したときあるいは装置に所定時間何らの操作が行われなかったとき前記機能選択手段で選択された機能の機械条件を標準状態に復帰させるオートクリア機構と、前記機能選択手段によって選択された機能毎に前記所定時間を設定する手段と、前記表で生物によって設定された形字時間に其づいて前記ま

ある。なお、前記第1又は第2の画像形成装置には、前記オートクリア機構の作動/不作動を設定する手段を設けてもよい。

【0006】続いて、第3の発明は、複写機能、プリンタ機能及びファクシミリ機能のうち少なくとも2つの機能を有し、各々の機能で動作可能な画像形成装置であって、前記各機能のいずれかを選択する機能選択手段と、機械動作の終了後、所定時間経過したときに装置の不要な電力消費を防止する省電力モードを設定する手段と、前記機能選択手段によって設定された所定時間に基づいて省電力モードを実行する手段とを備えたものである。【0007】

【発明の効果】上記画像形成装置によれば、複写機能、プリンタ機能、ファクシミリ機能に応じて自由にオートシャットタイム(画像形成動作が終了してから駆動手段の動作を停止させるまでの時間)、オートクリアタイム(機能動作が終了してから機械条件を標準状態に復帰させるまでの時間)、または節電スタートタイム(機械動作が終了してから省電力モードを実行するまでの時間)を設定することができ、ユーザのニーズに応じた機械の調整が可能となり、画像形成装置の使用勝手が向上する。

# [0008]

【実施例】以下、添付図面を参照して本発明の実施例について説明する。図1は本発明の一実施例であるデジタル複合機の概略構成を示し、図2は操作パネルの概略構成を示す。本複合機は、走査系10,画像信号処理部20,印字処理部30,光学系40,作像系50,プリンタコントローラ部90,ファックス(以下「FAX」と表す。)コントローラ部91,及び操作パネル100で構成される。

【0009】走査系10は、原稿を照射する露光ランプ11と原稿からの反射光の光路を変えるミラー12,13と、反射光を集光するレンズ14と色判別の為に2つの光電変換素子へ光を導くハーフミラー15と、受光した光に応じて電気信号を発生する光電変換素子16,17とを有し、スキャナ19は、原稿台ガラス18に平行に移動し、図の矢印方向への移動の時に、原稿を露光走査する。原稿から反射した光はミラー12,13,レンズ14を介してハーフミラー15に入射され、透過光が光電変換素子16に照明され、反射光が別の光電変換素子17に照明される。

【0010】画像信号処理部20は、2つの光電変換素子16,17から出力されてくる画像信号を処理し、特定色とそれ以外の色に識別し、印字処理部30へ色情報付画像データとして出力する。

【0011】印字処理部30は、送られてきた色情報付画像データに応じて後述する2つの半導体レーザ発生装置の画像データをED公けるレンナに、2つのレーザ系

・ 置へ画像データを遅延させて送り込む機能を有する。

【0012】光学系40は、2つのレーザ発生装置41,42,レンズ43,ミラー44,2つのレーザ光を分離するミラー45,分離された各レーザ光を感光体に導くミラー46,47を備えている。前記光学系40では、印字処理部30より出力されてくる画像データに応じてレーザ発生装置41,42が変調されたレーザ光をそれぞれ独立に発射する。前記レーザ光はレンズ43を通過した後、ミラー44で反射され、ミラー45で2つのレーザ光に分離され、ミラー46,47に反射してそれぞれ感光体62に露光される。

【0013】作像系50は、現像・転写系60, 搬送系 70、定着系80で構成される。現像・転写系60は、 メインモータ61によって矢印方向に回転する感光体6 2の表面を一様に帯電する第1帯電チャージャ63、赤 トナーを収納する現像器64,第2露光に備え再度感光 体62を帯電させる第2帯電チャージャ65、黒トナー を収納する現像器66,現像されたトナー像を用紙上に 転写するための転写チャージャ67、感光体62の表面 に残留するトナーを除去するクリーニング部68を備え ている。定着系80は定着ローラ81,排出ローラ8 2, 用紙を検出する排出センサ83を備えており、トナ ーを定着された用紙は排出ローラ82によって機械より 排出され、排出センサ83によって用紙の排出を検出す ることができる。搬送系70は、用紙を収納するカセッ ト71,72,カセット71,72から取り出された用 紙を導く用紙ガイド73, 用紙を転写部へ搬送するタイ ミングを調整するタイミングローラ74、定着系80へ 用紙を搬送するベルト75を備えている。

【0014】前記作像系50では、メインモータ61に. より矢印方向に回転する感光体62の外周面は、第1帯 電チャージャ63で一様に帯電された後、ミラー46に 反射したレーザ光が露光されて第1の静電潜像が形成さ れ、この第1の静電潜像が現像器64で赤トナー像とし て可視像化される。次に、感光体62は第2帯電チャー ジャ65で再び帯電された後、ミラー47に反射したレ ーザ光が露光されて第2の静電潜像が形成され、この第 2の静電潜像が現像器66で黒トナー像として可視像化 される。用紙はカセット71又は72から選択的に供給 され、用紙ガイド73に導かれ、タイミングローラ74 で前記トナー像とタイミングを取って転写部に搬送され る。転写部において、前記トナー像は転写チャージャ6 7によって用紙に転写された後、搬送ベルト75で定着 ローラ81に搬送され、ここでトナー像が用紙に加熱定 着された後、排出ローラ82で機外に排出される。ま た、排出される用紙は排出センサ83で検出される。

【0015】プリンタコントローラ部90はホストコンピュータ(図示せず)から画像データを受信し、この画像データを受信し、この画像データをビェトマップに展開し、田紅の動きに同期さ

系50の処理によりプリント動作を行なう。

【0016】FAXコントローラ部91は受信,送信の2つの処理があり、送信の場合は画像信号処理部20から送られてくる色情報付画像データを画像メモリに書き込み、所定のプロトコルによって送信動作を行なう。受信の場合、いったん受信データを画像メモリに書き込み、この画像データを印字処理部30に送信し、前述の光学系40及び作像系50の処理によりプリント動作を行う。

【0017】操作パネル100には、複数のキー101 ~117、LCD表示120、複数のLED121~1 30が設けてある。ここでユーザ環境選択キー101. ダイアグ環境選択キー102, 専門画面選択キー10 3, 応用画面選択キー104, 基本画面選択キー105 は、それぞれLCD表示120の表示画面を選択するも ので、ユーザ環境には、ユーザが通常使用する倍率選 択、用紙選択等があり、さらにこのユーザ環境は使用頻 度に応じて、基本画面→応用画面→専門画面の順にLC D表示画面内で選択できる項目が変わる。ダイアグ環境 とは、機械の調整維持診断に必要なもので、ファンクシ ョンモード、カウンタ表示モード等があり、このダイア グ環境内でも使用頻度に応じて、基本→応用→専門とL CD表示画面が変わる。ユーザ環境表示LED121, ダイアグ環境表示LED122,専門画面表示LED1 23, 応用画面表示 L E D 1 2 4, 基本画面表示 L E D 125は、上記の選択されているLCD表示画面の種類 を表すものである。コピーモード選択キー106、プリ ンタモード選択キー107, FAXモード選択キー10 8はそれぞれ複合機におけるアプリケーションモードを 選択するものであり、コピーモード表示LED126、 プリンタモード表示LED127,FAXモード表示L ED128は、アプリケーションモード選択に対する表 示である。パネルリセットキー109は、後述するオー トクリアと同様の処理を行うもので、操作パネルの状態 を標準状態に戻すものである。割り込みキー110は、 コピー動作などを一時中断し、別のモードで割り込んで コピーするためのものであり、割り込み表示LED12 9は割り込みモード状態を示すものである。 プリントキ ー114はコピーモードにおけるコピースタートを指示 するものでありプリント可能表示130はプリント可能 な状態の時のみ表示する。ストップキー115は、コピ 一動作を一時停止させるためのキーであり、クリアキー 116は、コピー枚数などを"1"にクリアするための キーである。機能選択キー111,112,113は、 それぞれLCD表示画面内で、各アプリケーションモー ド内の動作モードを選択するものである。 テンキー11 7は、枚数設定や L C D 表示画面内の種々の設定を行う ためのものである。

「00101 図りは 始今幽にたける判御同敗のブロッ

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PUlは操作パネルIOO上のキー入力や通信によって 送られてきたデータを解析し、表示を行ったり、入力さ れたデータを送信したりする制御を行う。CPU2は、 複合機システムの全体を統括するもので、電源投入時の デフォルトのアプリケーションモードの設定、アプリケ ーションモード変更、シーケンスの制御、リソースの使 用権の調停、シリアルで転送されるネットワークデータ の通信制御を行う。以下の説明においてCPU2をUS C(User System Controller)と呼ぶ。CPU3は、複合 機が複写機として動作する時の、画像入出力シーケンス 制御とコピーモードにおける操作パネル100の制御を 行う。以下の説明においてCPU3をMSCC (Macro System Controller for Copy) と呼ぶ。C P U 4 は複合 機がプリンタとして動作する時のエンジン作像系のシー ケンス制御ホストI/Fの制御とプリンタモードにおけ る操作パネルの制御を行う。以下の説明においてCPU 4をMSCP (Macro System Controller for Printe r)と呼ぶ。CPU5は複合機がファクシミリとして動作 する時の画像入出力シーケンス制御通信回線の管理、フ アクシミリモードにおける操作パネルの制御を行う。以 下の説明においてCPU5をMSCF(Macro System C ontroller for FAX) と呼ぶ。CPU6は作像系を制御す るCPUで、感光体ドラム62の第1, 第2の帯電制 御、印字処理部30と協同して発生する画像データの書 き込み、カラー(赤)・黒の2色のトナーの現象動作、給 紙制御等のプリント関連動作の制御を実行するCPUで 通称エンジンと呼ばれる。СРU7は走査系の動作を制 御し、さらに光電交換素子16,17からの画像データ を入力し、シェーディング補正, 変倍, ディザ処理など の通常の画像処理に加えて2色判別し、カラー(赤)・黒 のトナー現像に対応する書き込み信号に変換し、印字処 理部30ヘデータを出力するCPUである。

【0019】図4は、本発明の要旨となるアプリケーションモードに応じたオートクリア、オートシャット、節電モードの機能を選択する操作パネル100内のLCD表示画面の遷移の形態を示すものである。この図はコピーモードにおける表示画面を表しているが、他のアプリケーションモード(プリンタモード、FAXモード)でもユーザ環境専門画面12の表示以外は同様の形態をとる。

【0020】図2に示すコピーモードの標準表示画面の状態において、専門画面選択キー103を押すと専門画面表示LED123が点灯し、LCD表示画面は図4のユーザ環境専門画面0の表示に切り替わる。

【0021】この画面状態で機能選択キー111(図2参照、図4には図示せず)を押すとユーザ環境専門画面10に切り替わり、オートクリア動作のON/OFFの選択は、機能選択キー111を押すごとに"》"の位置が添わり、オニに"淬空"レキデオれている下の機能選

合はユーザ環境専門画面11へ移り、"動作しない"を 選択していた場合は再びユーザ環境専門画面0へ戻る。

【0022】ユーザ環境専門画面11では、オートクリ アの時間をテンキー117で入力し、ここでは予め設定 可能な時間範囲を、例えば1分後~10分後というよう に決めておいて、範囲外のテンキー入力は禁止するよう にする。テンキー117で時間を入力した後機能選択キ -113を押すとユーザ環境画面12へ移り、オートク リアの処理を選択できる。ここで処理とはオートクリア が実行されたときにどのような状態に設定するかという ことである。本例ではコピーモードの表示画面を示して いるので、選択できるのはプリンタモードもしくはFA Xモードにアプリケーションモードを変更するか、アプ リケーションモードは変更せずにコピーモード内で標準 設定値に戻すかである。このオートクリアの処理は、あ るアプリケーションモードにおけるプリント等の動作終 了後、所定時間操作パネル100上のキー入力がない時 に自動的に行うものであるが、この処理を操作パネル1 00上のパネルセットキーが押された時の処理に取り組 んでも良いし、また、パネルセットキーが押された場合 20 はアプリケーションモードによらず常に一定の処理を行 うようにしても良い。

【0023】ユーザ環境専門画面0の表示画面状態にお いて、機能選択キー112を押すとユーザ環境専門画面 20に切り替わり、オートシャット時間を設定できる。 この場合の処理は、ユーザ環境専門画面11と同等であ り、機能選択キー113を押すことにより、再びユーザ 環境基本画面0に戻る。

【0024】ユーザ環境専門画面0の表示画面状態おい て、機能選択キー113を押すとユーザ環境専門画面3 0に切り替わり、節電モード自動設定動作を行うか否か の選択ができ、動作を行う場合はユーザ環境専門画面3 1に移りユーザ環境専門画面11と同様の処理を行い、 機能選択キー113を押すことにより、再びユーザ環境 基本画面0に戻る。

【0025】複合機のシステム動作

次に、図5、図6に基づいて複合機におけるアプリケー ションモードの設定及び切り替えの動作をそれぞれのC PU間のデータの流れを用いて説明する。 図5は電源投 入時にデフォルトとして複写機モードを選択する場合を 40 示している。

む まず最初にUSCが操作パネル100と、MSC C, MSCP, MSCF, エンジン、スキャナに複写機 モードのアプリケーションモードを示すAPID (アプ リケーション・ID)を送信する。これにより、操作パ ネルとエンジン、スキャナは、このAPIDを受け、内 部で管理している複写機として動作するために必要な情 報をデフォルト値0に初期化する。

%I-MCCCH コピーエード内I-セリス 価準中能

フォルト値以外の情報を操作パネルとエンジン、スキャ ナに送信する。

以上の処理を経て、操作パネル100,エンジン、スキ ャナはコピーモードとしてのサポートを開始し、以後こ れらリソースの制御はMSCCが行う。

【0026】図6はコピーモードからFAXモードへ切 り替える場合を示している。

- まず最初に操作パネル100が、オートクリアのタ イミング、またパネルリセットが押された時に、MSC Cに対して、アプリケーション変更要求を送信する。
- MSCCはこの変更要求を受け、前述のオートクリ アの処理形態に応じてUSCに具体的なAPIDを付加 したアプリケーション変更要求を送信する。この例では コピーモードにおけるオートクリアの処理が ΓΑΧモー ドに切り替えるように設定されている場合を示す。
- ③ 次にUSCはこのFAXモードへのアプリケーショ ンモード変更要求を受け、FAXモードに必要なリソー スの解放を指示するようにMSCCに送信する。
- Cの例では、FAXモードではエンジンとスキャナ を必要とするので、MSCCはエンジンとスキャナに対 してリソース解放要求を出す。
- **⑤⑥** エンジン及びスキャナはこの解放要求を受け、コ ピー動作中でなければ解放応答をMSCCに送信し、コ ピー動作中であればコピー終了後に解放応答をMSCC に送信する。
- MSCCは、上記リソースからの解放応答を受け、 USCにアプリケーションモードの切り替えが可能なこ とを示すリソース解放応答を送信する。
- USCはこれを受けて操作パネルとMSCC, MS CP, MSCF, エンジン, スキャナにFAXモードの アプリケーションモードを示すAPIDを送信する。 以降の処理は図5における電源投入時と同様であり、こ の場合はFAXモードであるので、MSCFが、FAX として動作するために必要なデフォルト値以外の情報を 操作パネル、エンジン、スキャナに送信し(᠑)、アプ リケーションモードの変更手続を終了する。

【0027】以下に図3におけるそれぞれのCPUの処 理の詳細を説明していく。

(1) CPU1 (操作パネル)

図7に示すように、操作パネルのプログラムは、表示/ 入力デバイス及びコントローラ (MSCC, MSCP, MSCF, USC) とのインターフェイスの制御を行う OPIライブラリ(操作パネル・インターフェイス・ラ イブラリ)と、各アプリケーションモードの動作仕様を 記述したOPDD(操作パネル・デイスクリプション・ データ)と、OPIライブラリからの入力に従ってOP DDを解析してOP I ライブラリに出力するOPインタ ープリタ(操作パネル・インタープリタ)、の3つのブ ロックから様式せれる

析する時の模式図を示す。OPDDには、全アプリケーションモードで異なる固有部がある。また、それぞれOPDD内部には、OPインタープリタが必要なデータを取り出すために必要なOPDD検索データとしてOPD 力情報(操作パネルからコントローラから操作パネルにイントローラから操作パネルにイントローラから操作パネルにイントローラから操作パネルにイントローラが表示情報)、OPIライブラリが入力デバインョンに受けで表示すAPID等がある。さらにOPDD内では、解析結果としてのOP入力情報、実際の表示変更のためのデータなどがあり、これらをOPインタープリタのデータなどがあり、これらをOPインターが取り出してOPIライブラリに受け渡す。

【0030】図10はOPIライブラリのフローチャートを示している。OPIライブラリでは、まずS110で入力デバイスから入力されるキー入力をキーコードを変換し、所定のRAMにこのキーコードをセットし、これはOPインタープリタがOPDD検索データとしてで変更の表の制御を行う。S112ではコントローラから送られてくるデータがのPDD検索データとして用いる。S113ではOPインタープリタからのコントローラに送信すべきOP入力情報があれば、これを実際のインターフェイスのフォーマットに変換し送信する。

【0031】図11はOPインタープリタのフローチャートを示している。以下に示す各処理はフローチャート上には記述していないがそれぞれ前述のOPDDを解析することによって、実行される。最初にS120では、OPIライブラリからの入力がキー入力であるかどうかを判定し、ここでキー入力でなければ(S120;NO)、S125でキー入力以外の処理を行う。キー入力以外の処理には、MSCからのOP表示情報に対する処理等がある。S120でキー入力があった場合は、S121でオートクリアタイマをリセットし、S122で現てのまで画面を判断する。ス17 図4に示す専門面面

10 が機能選択キーかどうかを判断し、専門画面以外の場合 (S122;NO)の場合、S124で専門画面以外の キー入力処理を実行する。機能選択キーが押されている 場合(S123; YES)は、S130で現在のアプリ ケーションモードを判定する。ここで、アプリケーショ ンモードがコピーモードの場合、S140へ進み、図4 に示した通り、押された機能選択キー111~113に 従って処理を行う。すなわち、機能選択キー111のと きはオートクリア、機能選択キー112のときはオート シャット、機能選択キー113のときは節電モード、の 入力及び表示変更の処理をそれぞれ行う。次にS141 では、確定したデータをMSCCへ送信するために送信 データをセットする。ここで、実際のMSCCへ送信す る処理はOPIライブラリで行われる。アプリケーショ ンモードがプリンタモードの場合は、S150, S15 1 で前述と同様の処理を行い、MSCPにデータを送信 する。アプリケーションモードがFAXモードの場合 も、同様にS160、S161で処理を行い、MSCF にデータを送信する。専門画面における機能選択キー以 外の処理はS170で行われる。上記種々の処理の後、 OPインタープリタのメインルーチンに復帰する。

【0032】図12はS125のキー入力以外の処理内容を示し、S1251でユーザ環境画面10でオートクリアモードがON/OFFのいずれに設定されたかを判定し、ONのときはS1352でオートクリア時間を計測するためにタイマをカウントアップする。次に、S1253でユーザ環境画面11で設定したオートクリア時間が終了したか否かを判定し、終了していればS1254でユーザ環境専門画面12で設定したオートクリア時間が終了したが、S1255でその他の処理を実行する。前記S1254では、具体的には、現在のモードがコピー、プリンタ、FAXのいずれであるかを判別し、該当するMSCにクリヤ要求(オートクリア時にモード変更も行う場合は、アプリケーション変更要求)を出力する。

【0033】(2) CPU3 (MSCC), CPU4 (MSCP), CPU5 (MSCF) 図13~図15にCPU3, CPU4, CPU5のメインルーチンのフローチャートを示す。

(2-1) CPU3 (MSC) 最初にS301で、内部で用いるRAM、I/Oポットの初期設定を行う。次にS302では、メインルーチンの時間を管理する内部タイマをスタートする。S303では、アプリケーションの切り替え、リソースの解放要求等、システム全体を管理するUSCからのコマンド処理及びリソースの解放応答、コピーモードにおけるオートクリアの処理形態をUSCへ送信する処理を行い、ここでAPIDが設定される。S304ではS303で設定されたAPIDの判断をお言い、コピーエードでなけれ

に移る。また、コピーモードであれば、S305以下の 処理を継続して行う。S305では前述の操作パネル (図上"オペパネ"と表示する。) との通信処理を行 う。具体的には操作パネルから設定内容を示すOP情報 の受信により、コピーモードとして動作するための動作 指示情報を設定する。また、必要に応じてユーザに知ら せるべき情報をOP表示情報として操作パネルに送信す る。さらに、アプリケーションモード切り替え時には、 コピーモードとして動作するために必要なデフォルト以 外の情報を操作パネルに送信する。S306ではエンジ ンとの通信処理を行う。具体的には給紙口の設定、現像 器の選択等を行うデータ及びコピーシーケンスにかかわ るプリントコマンド等のデータをエンジンに送信し、エ ンジンからはエンジンの状態を示すデータ及びコピーシ ーケンスにかかわるコマンドに対するレポート等を受信 する。また、アプリケーションモード切り替え時には、 コピーモードとして動作するために必要なデフォルト以 外の情報をエンジンに送信する。さらに、本発明のポイ ントとなるオートシャット時間及び節電モードの設定内 容もこのS306でエンジンに対して送信される。続く S307ではスキャナとの通信処理を行う。具体的には 操作パネルから入力される倍率、色指定に関する情報、 編集に関する情報及びコピーシーケンスにかかるスキャ ン開始コマンド等のデータをスキャナに送信し、スキャ ナからはスキャナの状態を示すデータ及びコピーシーケ ンスにかかわるスキャン終了レポート等を受信する。ま た、アプリケーションモード切り替え時には、コピーモ ードとして動作するために必要なデフォルト以外の情報 をスキャナに送信する。S308では上記以外のコピー モードにおける必要な処理を行う。S309ではS30 2でスタートとした内部タイマがカウント終了したかど うかの判断を行い、カウント終了であれば S 3 0 2 に戻 り、上記の処理を継続する。

[0034] (2-2) CPU4 (MSCP)

 $S401\sim S406$ はMSCCの処理と同等であり、これをプリンタモードに対して行う。S407では、ビットマップ上に展開された画像データを用紙の動きに同期させて印字処理部30に送信する処理を行う。S408では、ホストI/Fから送られてくる画像データを受信してビットマップ上に展開する処理を行う。S409で40は上記以外のプリンタモードにおける必要な処理を行う。S410では上記以外のプリンタモードにおける必要な処理を行う。S410ではS309と同様の処理を行う。

【0035】(2-3) CPU5(MSCF) S501~S507は前述のMSCCの処理と同等であり、これをFAXモードに対して行う。S508では、画像メモリに書き込まれている受信済のデータを印字処理が20に送信する加盟を行う。S500では送信/四

の場合に直接メモリに書き込む処理、通信の場合は画像 処理部から送られてくる画像データを画像メモリに書き 込む処理も行う。 S 5 1 0 では上記以外の F A X モード

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込む処理も行う。S510では上記以外のFAXモードにおける必要な処理を行う。S511ではS309と同様の処理を行う。

【0036】(3) CPU6 (エンジン)

図16にCPU6 (エンジン) のメインルーチンのフロ ーチャートを示す。最初に S 6 0 1 で内部で用いる R A M, I/Oポートの初期設定を行う。次にS602では メインルーチンの時間を管理する内部タイマをスタート する。S603では、アプリケーションの切り替え等の USCからの指示に対する受信処理を行う。S604で は、S603で設定に応じて各アプリケーションモード に対するMSCからのリソース解放要求、動作指示情 報、プリントシーケンスにかかわるコマンド等を受信 し、エンジンの状態に応じて、リソースの解放応答、ス テータス情報、プリントシーケンスにかかわるレポート 等を送信する。S605は感光体(P/C)62の回転 処理を行うもので、ここでオートシャットタイマの制御 を行う。(詳細は後述する。) S606は感光体上に潜 像を形成し、これを用紙上に転写するための現像転写系 の処理を行う部分である。

【0037】図1に基づいて5606の処理を説明す る。感光体ドラム62が矢印方向に一回転する間に帯電 →第1露光→第1現像第2帯電→第2露光→第2現像→ 転写の各工程を行い、2色のプリント動作を制御する。 感光体ドラム62の表面を均一に帯電チャージャ63で 電位 Von に帯電する。次に、レーザ光を露光して第1潜 像を形成し、これを第1現像器64によりバイアス電圧 を印加しながらカラートナー像に反転現像する。続い て、第2帯電チャージャ65で感光体ドラム62の表面 電圧を Vœ に帯電し、レーザ光を露光し第2潜像を形成 し、第2現像器66によりバイアス電圧を印加しながら 黒トナー像に反転現像する。最後に、前記2色のトナー 像を転写チャージャ67で用紙上に転写する。なお、S 606におけるプリント開始時における現像バイアス、 転写、帯電のONタイミングは後述するS606内の処 理でセットされる現像転写系許可フラグにより決定され

【0038】S607では給紙系の処理を行う。ここでは、S604で受信されるMSCからのプリントコマンド(給紙要求)を受け、給紙できる状態であれば給紙を開始し、MSCに対して給紙レポートを送信する。また、トナー像の先端を合わせるタイミングローラ74の起動し、転写終了後の用紙を定着部へ搬送する。さらに対して1枚の用紙のプリント終了を示す排出レポートを送信する。前記給紙レポート、排出レポートはS60

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の定着ローラ81の温度制御及び節電モードへの自動切り替え処理を行う部分で詳細は後述する。S609ではS602でスタートされた内部タイマがカウント終了したかの判断を行うカウント終了であればS602に戻り、上記の処理を継続して行う。なお、S604において表されている"MSC"はアプリケーションモードによって異なり、コピーモード時はMSCC、プリントモード時はMSCP、FAXモード時はMSCFである。【0039】図17、18に図16内の感光体(P/C)回転処理(S605)の詳細を示す。この感光体回10転処理はステート構成になっており、最初にS602Pでステート番号を示す感光体ステートカウンタを判定し、その値に応じて以下の処理を実行する。

【0040】感光体ステートカウンタ=0の場合、S621 Pで現在のアプリケーションモードをサポートする M S C からのプリントコマンドを受信したかどうかのチェックを行い、YESであれば、S622 Pで感光体ステートカウンタを"1"に設定する。NOであれば感光体ステートカウンタを変更することなくS623 Pでメインルーチンに復帰する。

【0041】感光体ステートカウンタ=1の場合、S631PでメインモータON信号を出力し、メインモータ61を起動して感光体62の回転をスタートする。次にS632Pでメインモータ61の立ち上げ時間を考慮してメインモータ61の回転が定常状態に安定するまでのタイマをセットする。これは、メインモータ61が正常に回転していない状態で、転写チャージャ67等をONするとオーバーチャージとなり、感光体62に悪影響を与えるからである。最後に、S633Pで感光体ステートカウンタを"2"に設定する。

【0042】感光体ステートカウンタ=2の場合、S641PではS632Pでセットされたメインモータ立ち上げ時間タイマをカウントし、カウント終了であればS642Pに移り、現像、転写系の処理を許可するフラグをセットする。このフラグを参照して、S606(現像、転写系処理)で、感光体ドラムの露光に備えた感光体62の前処理がスタートすることになる。最後にS643Pで感光体ステートカウンタを"3"に設定する。なお、S641Pでカウント続行の場合は感光体ステートカウンタを変更せずにそのままメインルーチンへ復帰する。

【0043】感光体ステートカウンタ=3の場合、S651 Pで一枚の用紙給紙を行ったかどうかを判断するために、S607でセットされMSCに送信する給紙レポートがあるかどうかチェックする。そして、YESであれば、S652 Pで感光体ステートカウンタを"4"に変更し、NOであればそのままメインルーチンに復帰する。

「0011」 耐火什つニートカウンカー1の担今 cc

で、機内にペーパーが 1 枚入ったことを表す機内ペーパーカウンタをインクリメントし、続く S 6 6 2 Pで感光体ステートカウンタを"5"に変更する。

【0045】感光体ステートカウンタ=5の場合、S6 07でセットされ、MSCに送信する排出レポートのチ ェックを行い、これに従って、オートシャットタイマを セットする。まずS671Pでは、この排出レポートが あるかどうかを判断し、無い場合はS676Pで再び給 紙レポートのチェックを行い、NOであればメインルー チンにそのまま復帰し、YESであればS677Pで感 光体ステートカウンタ"4"に変更し、次にサブルーチ ンがコールされた時に機内ペーパカウンタをインクリメ ントする。S671PでYESの場合はS672Pで機 内ペーパカウンタをデクリメントし、S673Pでこの カウンタが"0"になったかどうかのチェックを行う。 もし、前記カウンタが"0"になればS674Pに移 り、オートシャットタイマをセットする。このタイマ値 は、各アプリケーションモードをサポートするMSCか ら操作パネルで設定された情報をエンジンが受け取り、 この情報をもとにタイマをセットされる。また、S67 5 Pでは感光体ステートカウンタを "6" に変更する。 なお、S673PでNOの場合はそのままメインルーチ ンに復帰する。

【0046】感光体ステートカウンタ=6の場合、S681Pでは再びプリントコマンドが入力されて給紙したかどうかの判断を行い、YESであれば、S686Pで感光体ステートカウンタを"4"に変更し、前述の処理を繰り返し行う。S681PでYESの場合はS682Pでオートシャットタイマのカウントを行い、終了すればS683PでメインモータOFFとし、感光体の回転を止め、続くS684Pで現像転写許可フラグをリセットし、S685Pで感光体ステートカウンタを"0"に変更し、一連の感光体ドラムの起動停止の処理を終了ままる。また、S682Pでカウント継続の場合はそのままメインルーチンへ復帰し、処理を続行する。

【0047】図19,20にS608における定着系処理の詳細を示す。この定着系処理はステート構成になっており、最初にS620Hでこの定着系処理のステート番号を示す定着ステートカウンタにより処理系統を分ける。

【 0 0 4 8 】定着ステートカウンタ = 0 の場合、 S 6 2 1 Hでウォーミング U P 処理をスタートし、 S 6 2 2 H で定着ステートカウンタを " 1 " に変更する。

【0050】定着ステートカウンタ=2の場合、S64 1 Hで節電モード自動設定の動作をするかしないかを判 断する。この動作をするかしないかの設定及び後述する 節電モード自動設定のタイマ値は、各アプリケーション モードをサポートするMSCから操作パネルで設定され た情報をエンジンが受け取りこの情報をもとに設定する ものである。S641Hで動作する場合は、S642H へ移りメインモータがONしているかどうか、すなわ ち、プリント動作をスタートしているかどうかのチェッ クを行い、スタートしていればS643Hで定着ステー 10 トカウンタを"3"に変更する。 S 6 4 1 H, S 6 4 2 HでNOであればそのままメインルーチンに復帰する。 【0051】定着ステートカウンタ=3の場合、S65 1 HでメインモータがOFFしているかどうか、すなわ ち、プリント動作を終了しているかどうかのチェックを 行い、プリント動作の終了であればS652Hで節電モ ード自動設定タイマをセットし、S653Hで定着ステ ートカウンタを"4"に変更する。 S 6 5 1 HでONで あれば、そのままメインルーチンに復帰する。

【0052】定着ステートカウンタ=4の場合、S66 20 る。 1 HでメインモータがOFFしているかどうか、すなわち再びプリント動作がスタートしていないかどうかの判断を行い、もしメインモータがONしてプリント動作が再スタートしていれば、S665Hで定着ステートカウンタを"3"に変更する。S661でメインモータOFFの場合はS662Hで節電モード自動設定タイマのカウントを行い、カウント終了であれば、S663Hで通常温調よりも低い温度レベルでの節電モード温調の制御をスタートし、S664Hで定着ステートカウンタを"5"に変更する。S662Hでカウント終了でない場る。 【図 5"に変更する。S662Hでカウント終了でない場合はそのままメインルーチンに復帰し、カウントを継続する。

【0053】定着ステートカウンタ=5の場合、S67 1 Hで節電モード解除の指令をMSCから受け取ったか どうかを判断し、YESであればS672Hへ移り定着 ステートカウンタを"0"に変更し、再び、ウォーミン グUP制御をスタートし、NOであればそのままメイン ルーチンへ復帰して節電モードの温調制御を継続する。 【0054】図21はCPU2(USC)のフローチャ ートを示している。ここでは、まずS201で内部で用 いるRAM, I/Oポートの初期設定と、電源投入時の デフォルトアプリケーションモードの設定を行う。次に S203ではメインルーチンの時間を管理する内部タイ マをスタートする。S205では、各MSC (MSC C, MSCP, MSCF) と各リソース (エンジン, ス キャナ、操作パネル)から送信されるデータを入力す る。S207はS205で入力されたデータがシステム 全体に関するデータ(アプリケーション変更要求、リソ \_フ魵切け吹しか不かた刺ウオス アスガ V C C の担

の設定等の処理を行う。S207でNOの場合は、シリアルで転送されるネットワークのルートを区別し、対応する送信先へのデータをセットする。S209,S21 1で処理されたデータは、S213で再びネットワーク

1で処理されたデータは、S213で再びネットワークデータとして所定のMSCまたはリソースに送信する処理を行う。S215では、S203でスタートした内部タイマがカウント終了したかどうかの判断を行い、カウント終了であれば、S203へ戻り、上記の処理を継続

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# 【図面の簡単な説明】

する。

- 【図1】 デジタル複合機の概略構成を示す断面図である。
- 【図2】 操作パネルの平面図である。
- 【図3】 制御回路のブロック図である。
- 【図4】 表示パネルにおける L C D表示の一例を示す 図である。
- 【図5】 CPU間のデータの流れを示す図である。
- 【図6】 CPU間のデータの流れを示す図である。
- 【図7】 操作パネルのプログラム構成を示す図である。
- 【図8】 OPインタープリタのOPDD解析模式図である。
- 【図9】 CPU1のメインルーチンのフローチャートである。
- 【図10】 OP I ライブラリのフローチャートである。
- 【図11】 OPインタープリタのフローチャートである。
- 【図12】 キー入力以外の処理のフローチャートである。
- 【図13】 CPU3のメインルーチンのフローチャートである。
- 【図14】 CPU4のメインルーチンのフローチャートである。
- 【図15】 CPU5のメインルーチンのフローチャートである。
- 【図16】 CPU6のメインルーチンのフローチャートである。
- 【図17】 感光体回転処理のフローチャートである。
- 【図18】 感光体回転処理のフローチャートである。
  - 【図19】 定着系の処理のフローチャートである。
  - 【図20】 定着系の処理のフローチャートである。
- 【図21】 CPU2のメインルーチンのフローチャートである。

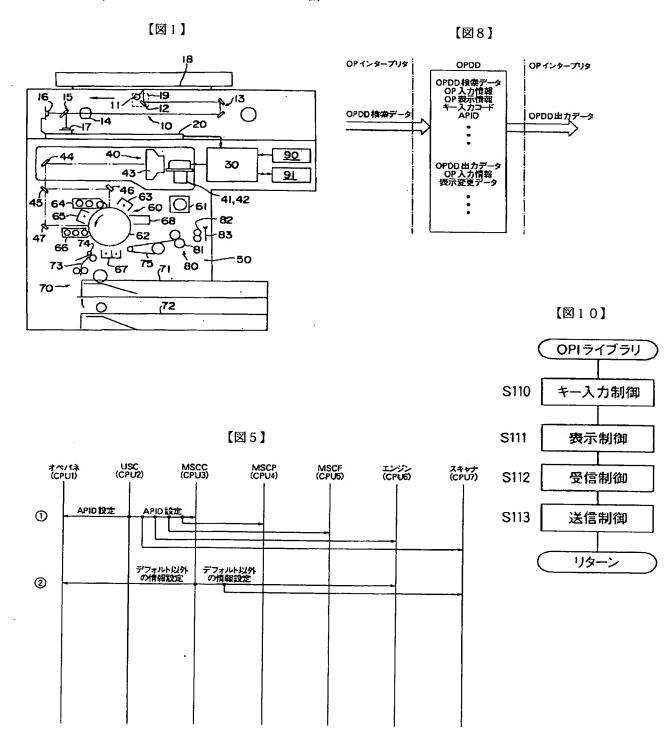
### 【符号の説明】

10…走査系、20…画像信号処理部、30…印字処理部、40…光学系、50…作像系、60…現像・転写系、70…搬送系、80…定着系、90…プリンタコントローニャ 100…場

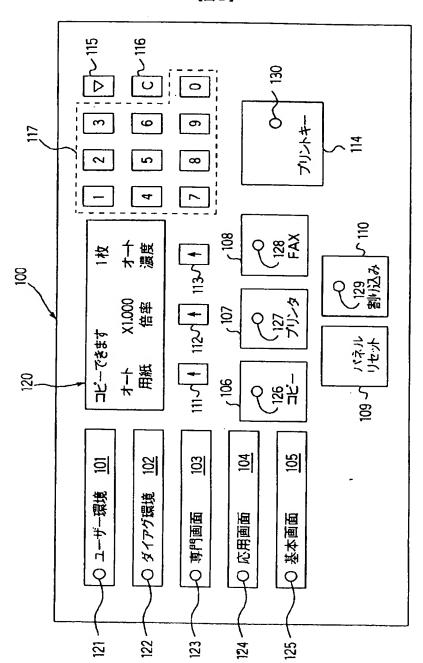
アグ環境選択キー、103…専門画面選択キー、104 …応用画面選択キー、105…基本画面選択キー、10 6…コピーモード選択キー、107…プリンタモード選 択キー、108…FAXモード選択キー、109…パネ ルリセットキー、111…機能選択キーA、112…機\*

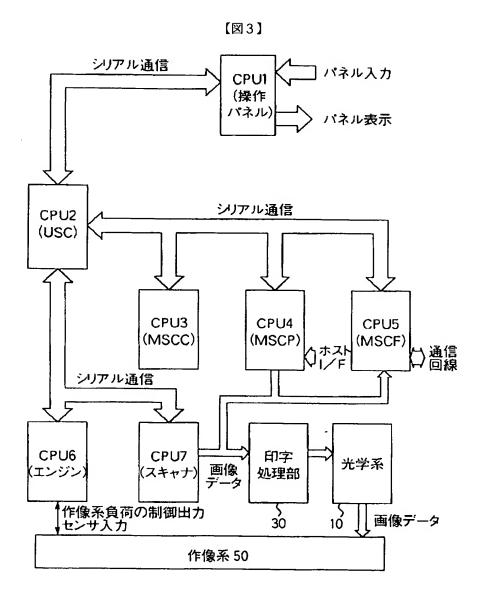
\* 能選択キーB、113…機能線たうキーC、120…L CD表示、126…コピーモード表示LED、127… プリンタモード表示LED、128…FAXモード表示 LED。

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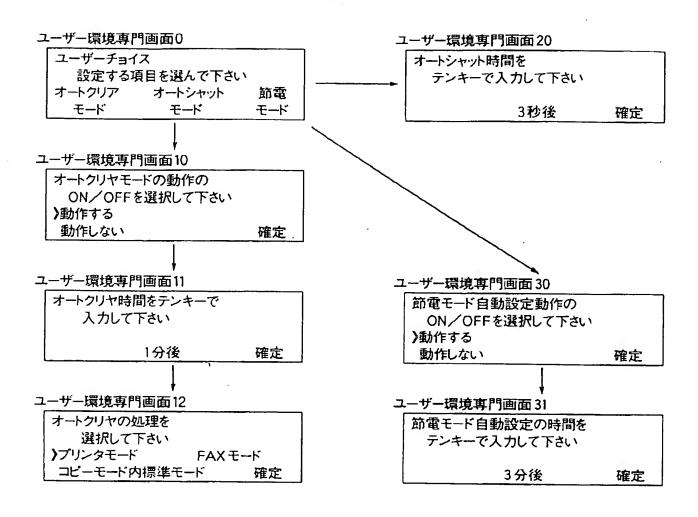


【図2】

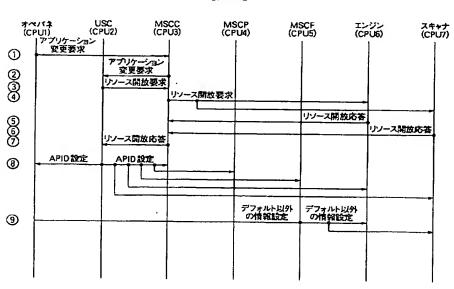




【図4】

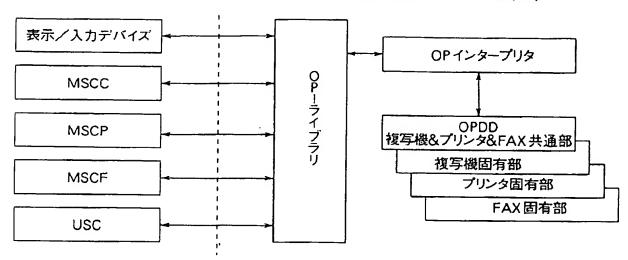


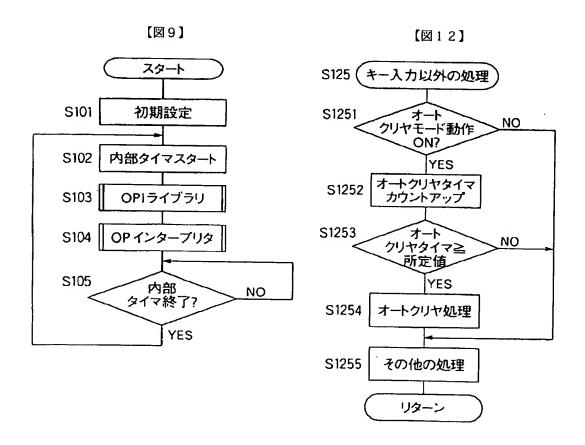
【図6】



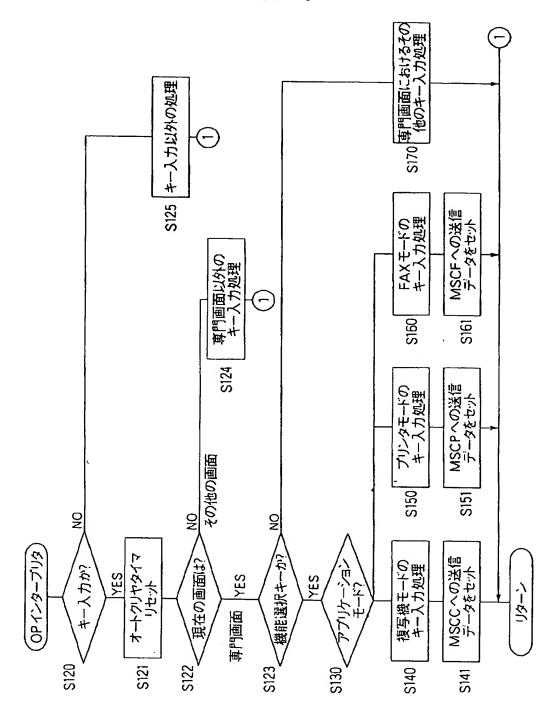
【図7】

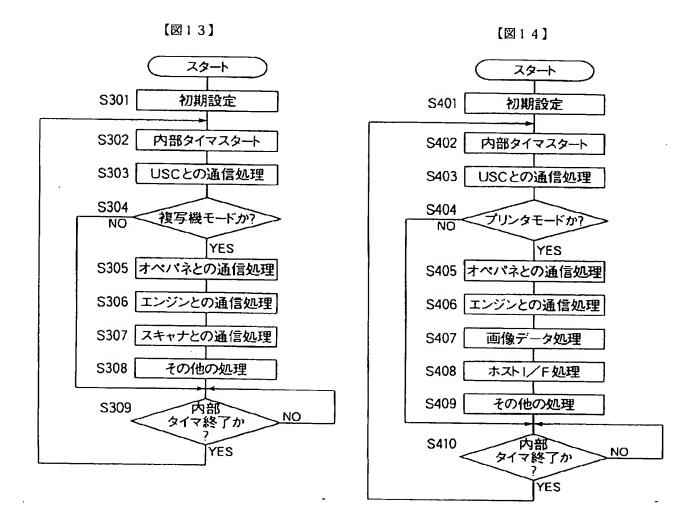
# CPUI(操作パネルプログラム)

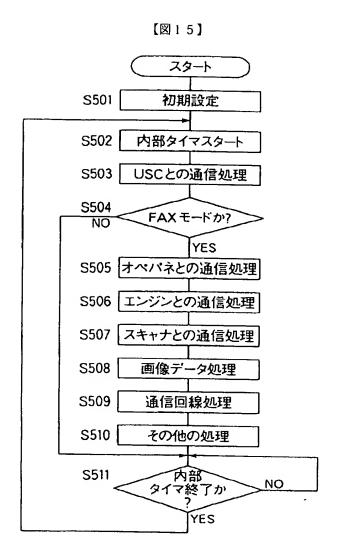


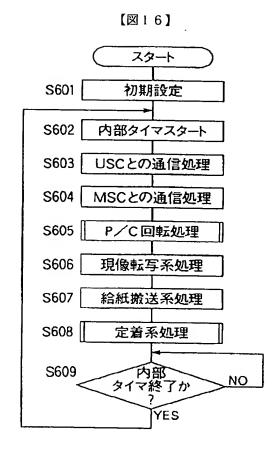


【図11】

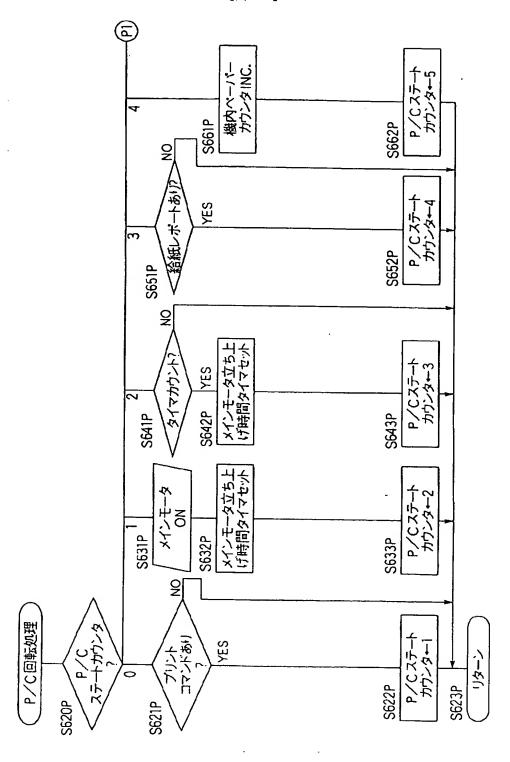




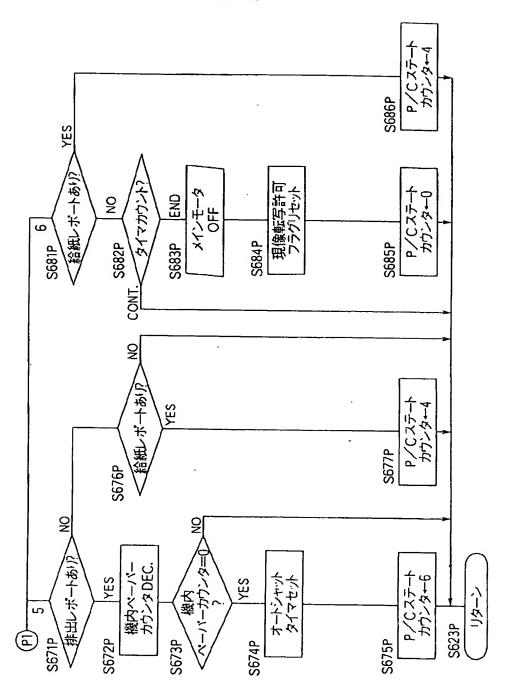




【図17】

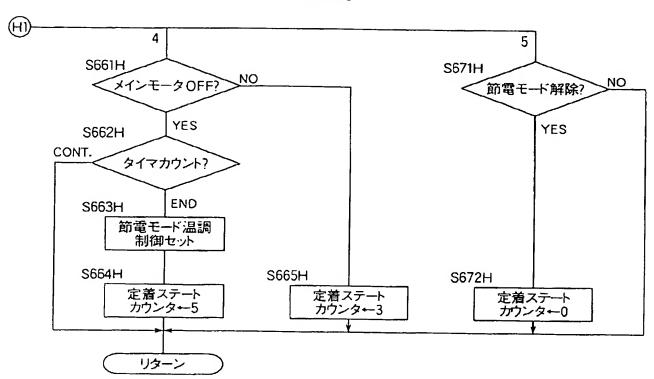


【図18】



【図19】 Ē (メインモータOFF) 節電モード自動 設定タイマセ・小 定着ステート カウンター4 S652H S651H S653H 9 H 節電 モード自動設定あり メインモータON? 定着ステート カウンター3 YES YES S642H S643H 通常温調 制御スタート S631H S632H S633H 定番ステートカウンタ 定着系の処理 定着ステート カウンター1 ンターン S620H S623H

【図20】



【図21】

